KIRKMAN • SITTERSON • KEATINGE • SU • RANDOLPH

TECH JACKET™

COMPENDIUM ONE

TechJacket
image
1 NOV
KIRKMAN
SU
STAPELS
IMAGECOMICS.COM

image® COMICS PRESENTS

TechJacket

CO-CREATOR, WRITER, LETTERER: ROBERT KIRKMAN

CO-CREATOR, PENCILER, INKER: E.J. SU

COLORIST: VAL STAPLES

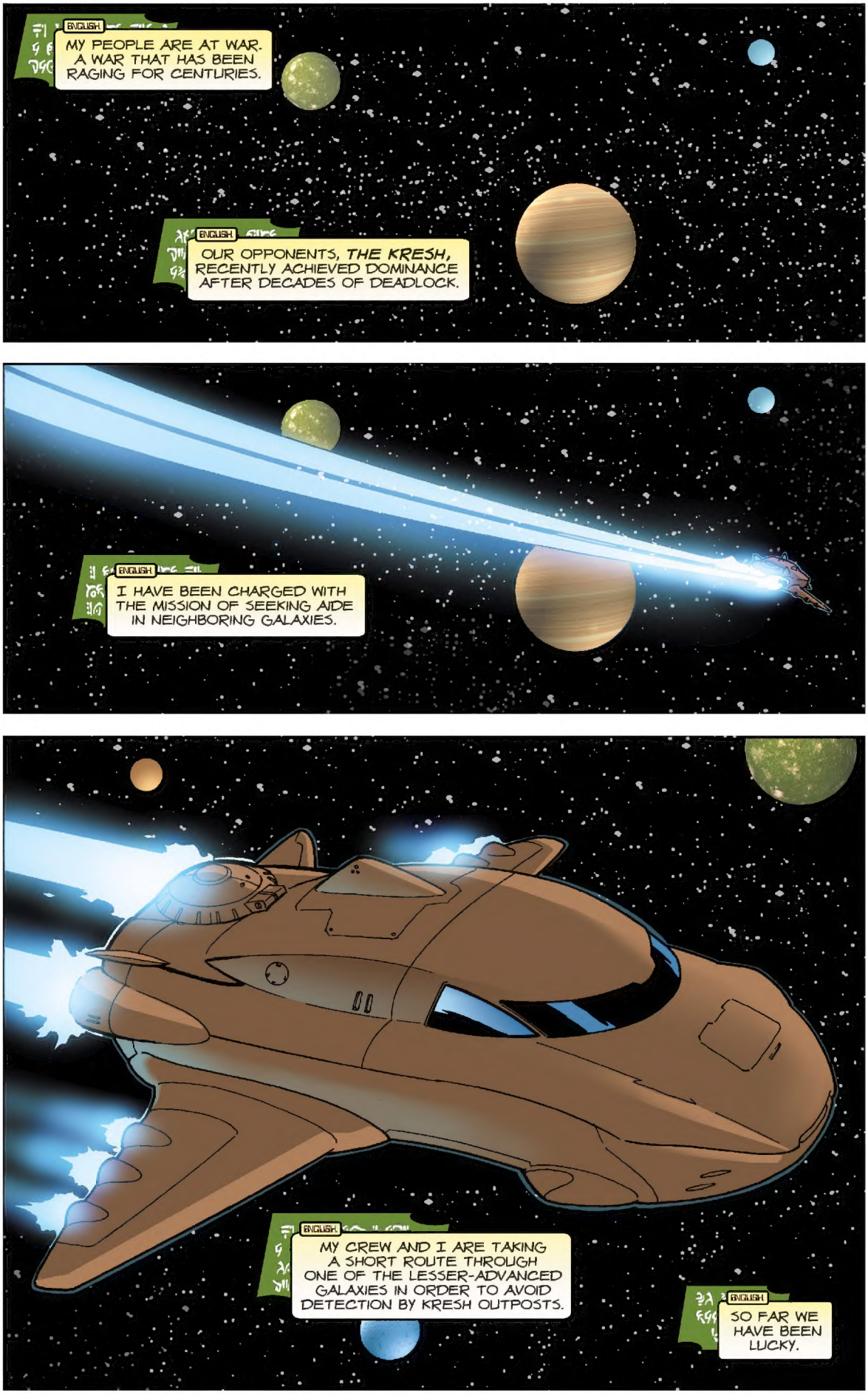
COLOR ASSISTS: ALI JAVAKOLY & SHAYNNE CORBETT

EDITOR: CHAD MANION

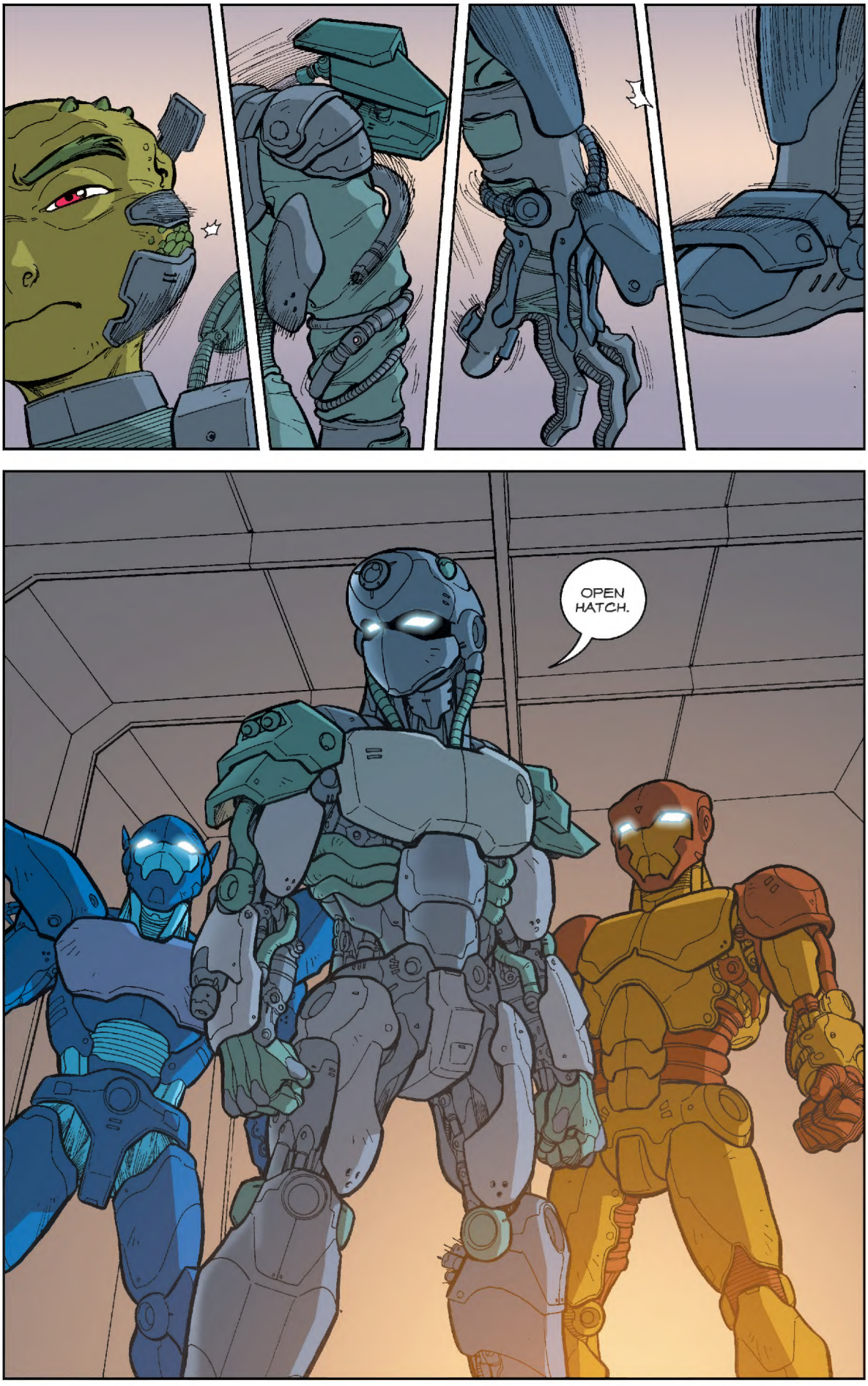
FOR IMAGE COMICS

JIM VALENTINO *PUBLISHER*	**BRENT BRAUN** *DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION*	**ERIC STEPHENSON** *DIRECTOR OF MARKETING*	**TRACI HALE** *CONTROLLER/FOREIGN LICENSING*
BRETT EVANS *ART DIRECTOR*	**ALLEN HUI** *WEB DEVELOPER*	**CYNDIE ESPINOZA** *ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT*	**MASON HAUGE** *INVENTORY CONTROLLER*

TECH JACKET #1. NOVEMBER, 2002. FIRST PRINTING. An Image Comics Group title published by Image Comics 1071 N. Batavia St. Ste A, Orange, CA 92867.
TECH JACKET is ™ and © Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su, 2002. All rights reserved. Any similarities to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su. Publisher and creators assume no responsibility for unsolicited materials.
Printed In Canada.

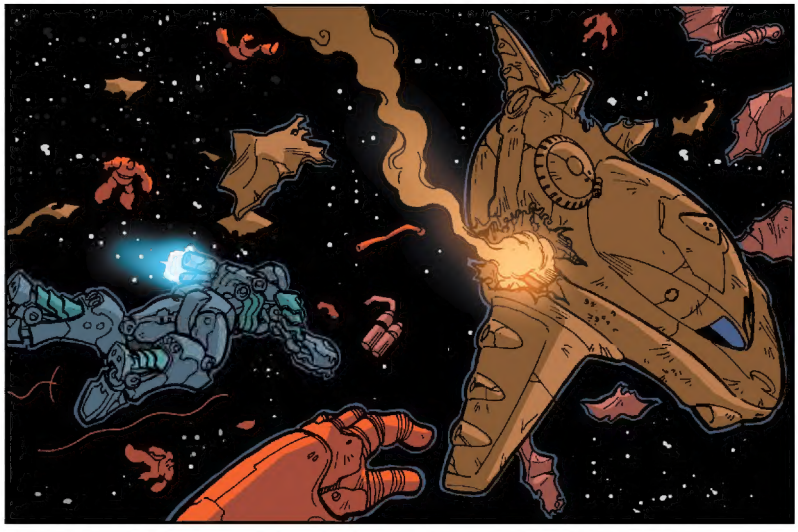

ENGLISH
MY PEOPLE ARE AT WAR. A WAR THAT HAS BEEN RAGING FOR CENTURIES.
ENGLISH
OUR OPPONENTS, THE KRESH, RECENTLY ACHIEVED DOMINANCE AFTER DECADES OF DEADLOCK.
ENGLISH
I HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH THE MISSION OF SEEKING AIDE IN NEIGHBORING GALAXIES.
ENGLISH
MY CREW AND I ARE TAKING A SHORT ROUTE THROUGH ONE OF THE LESSER-ADVANCED GALAXIES IN ORDER TO AVOID DETECTION BY KRESH OUTPOSTS.
ENGLISH
SO FAR WE HAVE BEEN LUCKY.

SIR, WE ARE PICKING UP THE PRESENCE OF AN UNIDENTIFIED VESSEL.
ENGLISH
IT IS APPARENT THAT LUCK HAS RUN OUT.
PUT IT ON SCREEN.
THAT IS A KRESH SCOUT SHIP.
THE TIME FOR CONFLICT IS AT HAND.
ENGLISH
SCOUT SHIPS ARE NOT OFTEN HEAVILY ARMED. THEIR PURPOSE IS TO ALERT WAR SHIPS OF THE ENEMY'S PRESENCE.
ENGLISH
THEY RARELY EVER ACTUALLY ENGAGE IN BATTLE, WHICH LEADS ME TO QUESTION WHY THIS ONE MADE ITS PRESENCE KNOWN.
ENGLISH
I AM NOT WAITING UNTIL I FIND OUT.
ACTIVATE.


OPEN HATCH.

ENGLISH
MY FEARS HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED.
THEY HAVE AN ENTIRE PLATOON PACKED INTO THAT THING.
JUST TRY TO PROTECT THE SHIP.
ENGLISH
THIS IS MUCH MORE THAN A SCOUT SHIP.

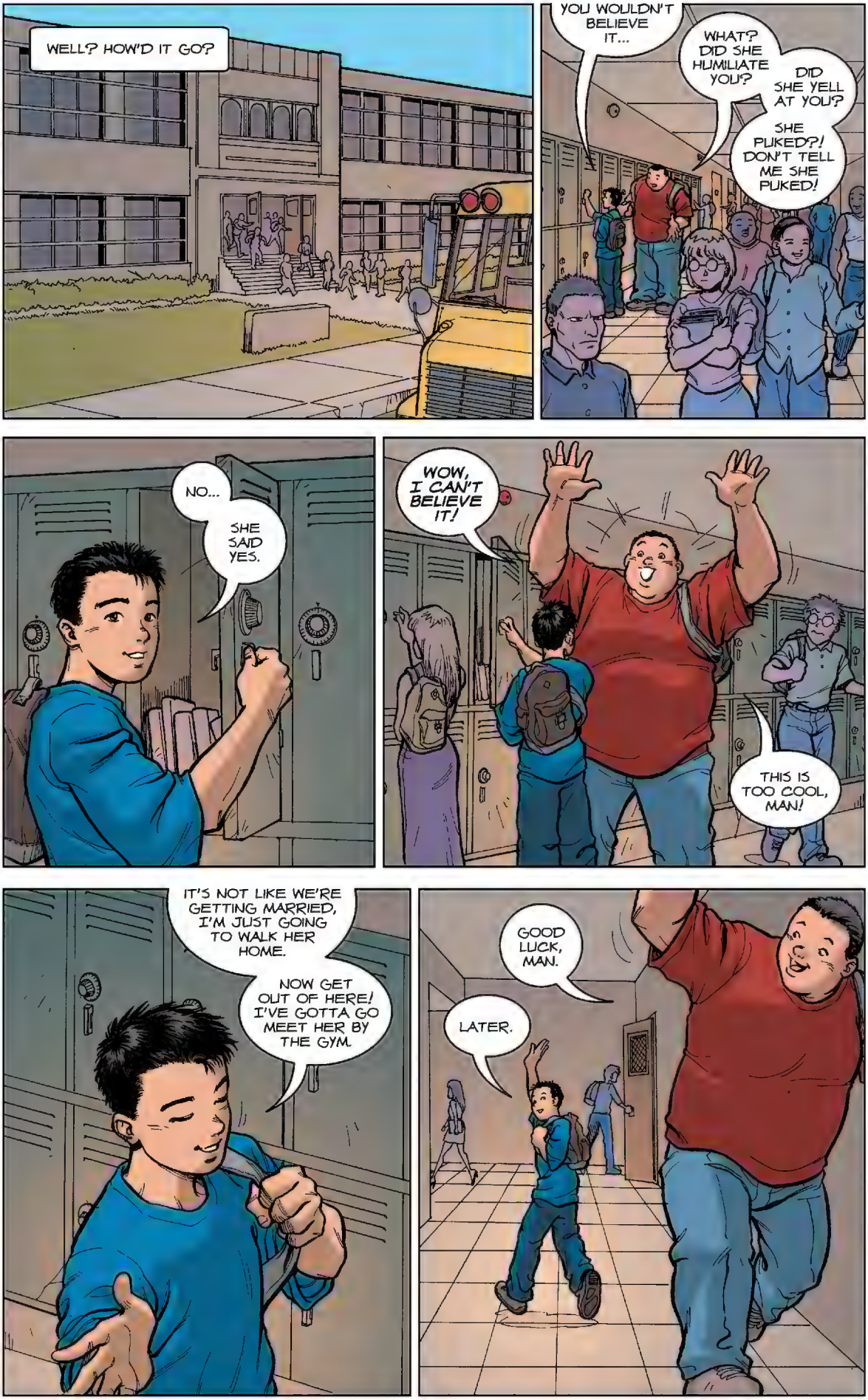
NOOO!
THE MISSION MUST SUCCEED.
DON'T--

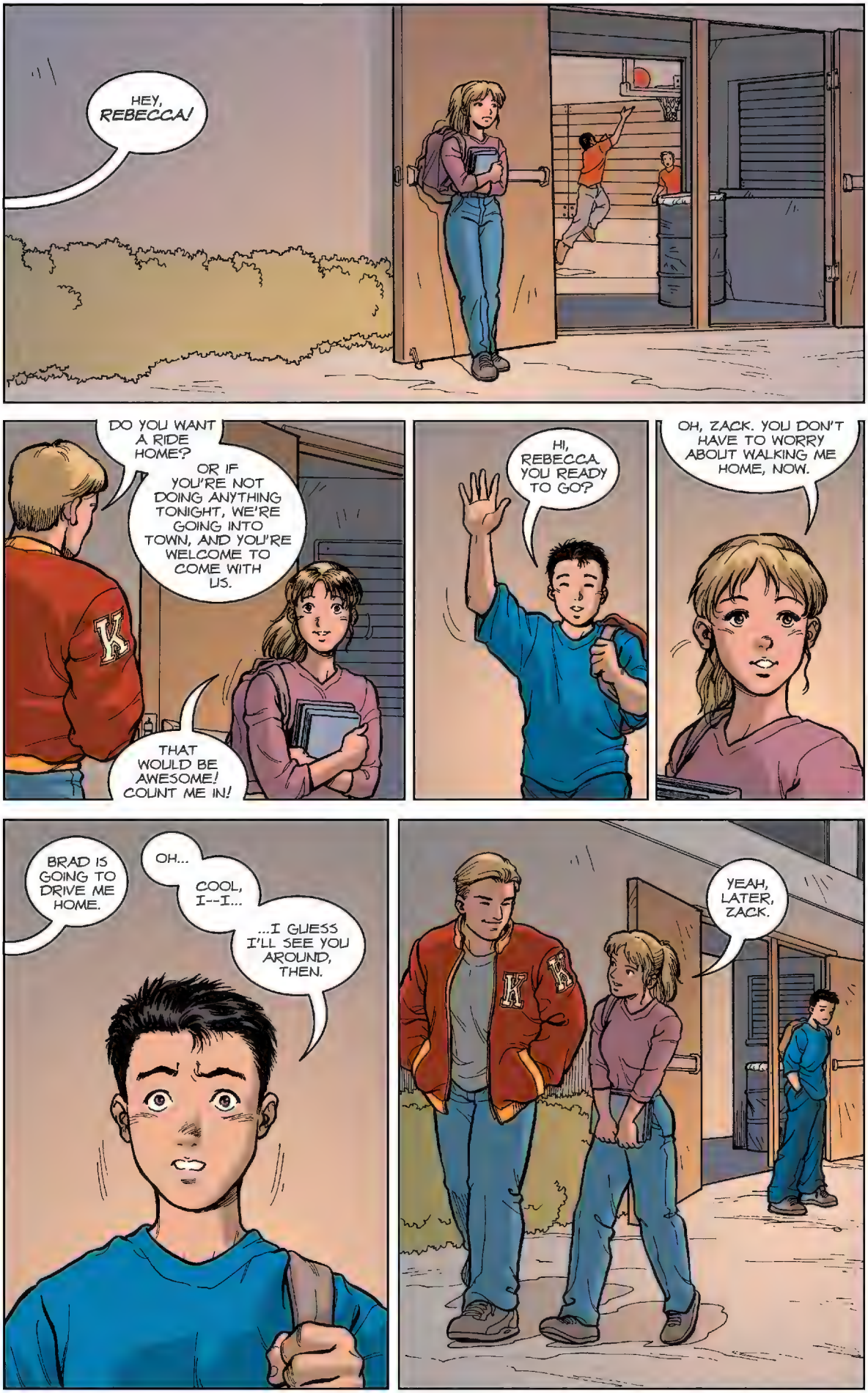


IT IS JUST US, NOW.
HOW IS THE SHIP HOLDING UP?

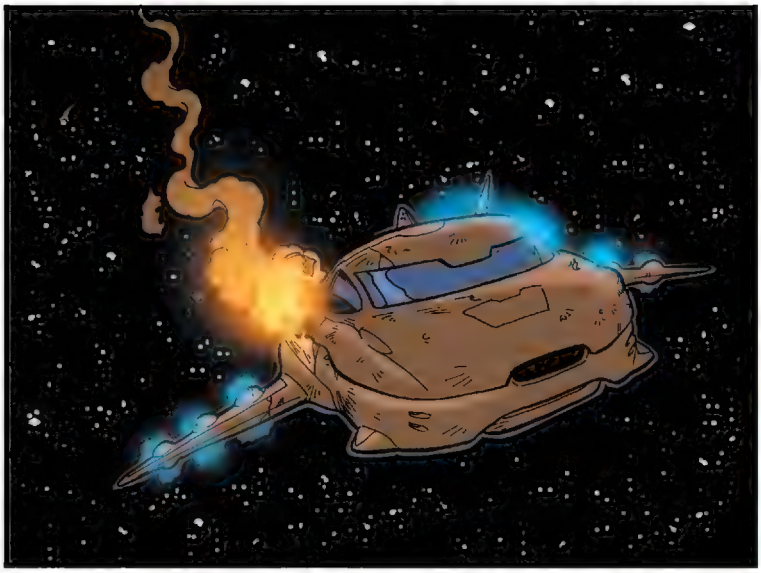
NOT GOOD. WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO STOP SOMEWHERE FOR REPAIRS.

I HOPE THERE IS A SUITABLE PLANET NEARBY...


WELL? HOW'D IT GO?
YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT...
WHAT? DID SHE HUMILIATE YOU?
DID SHE YELL AT YOU?
SHE PUKED?! DON'T TELL ME SHE PUKED!
NO...
SHE SAID YES.
WOW, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
THIS IS TOO COOL, MAN!
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE GETTING MARRIED, I'M JUST GOING TO WALK HER HOME.
NOW GET OUT OF HERE! I'VE GOTTA GO MEET HER BY THE GYM.
GOOD LUCK, MAN.
LATER.


HEY, REBECCA!
DO YOU WANT A RIDE HOME?
OR IF YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING TONIGHT, WE'RE GOING INTO TOWN, AND YOU'RE WELCOME TO COME WITH US.
THAT WOULD BE AWESOME! COUNT ME IN!
HI, REBECCA. YOU READY TO GO?
OH, ZACK. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT WALKING ME HOME, NOW.
BRAD IS GOING TO DRIVE ME HOME.
OH...
COOL, I--I...
...I GUESS I'LL SEE YOU AROUND, THEN.
YEAH, LATER, ZACK.

=SIGH=

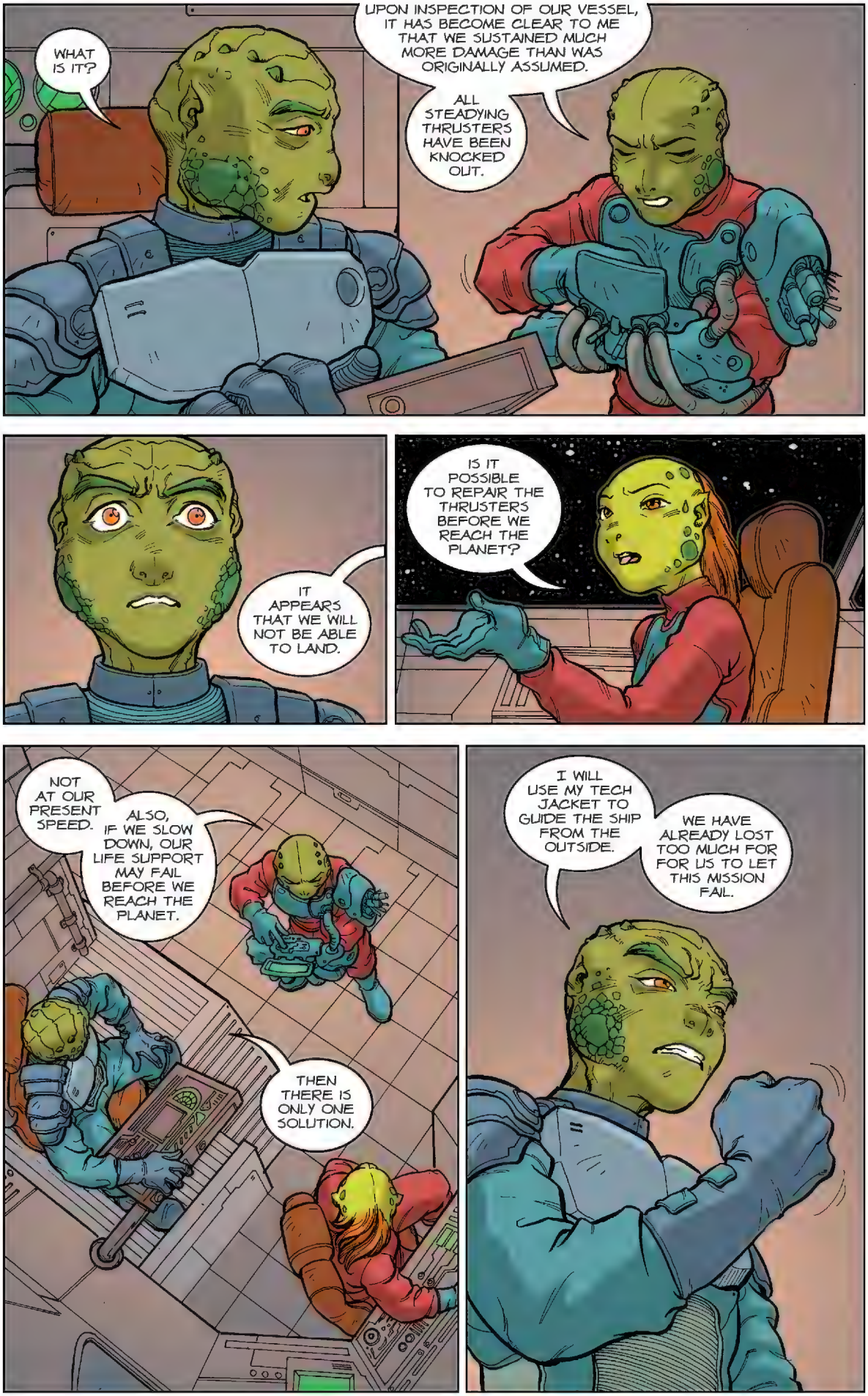


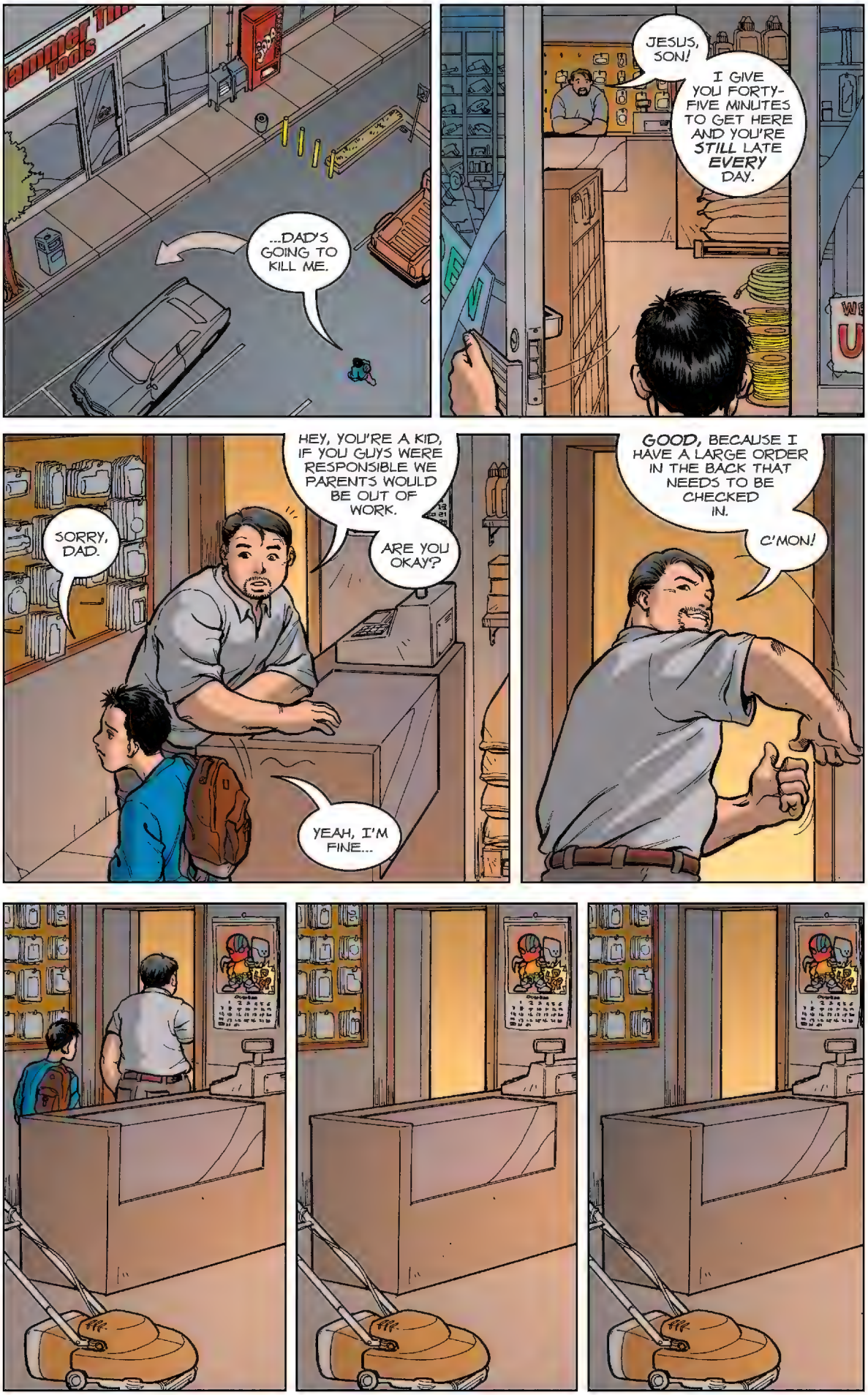
ENGLISH
I WAS NOT AWARE THERE WAS A CLASS NINE PLANET IN THIS SECTOR.

GOOD LUCK HAS CERTAINLY BEEN WITH US ON THIS MISSION.
OUR LONG-RANGE SCANS INDICATE THAT IT HAS AN ATMOSPHERE ALL BUT IDENTICAL TO OUR OWN PLANET.

THOUGH IT WILL BREAK THE FIRST RULE OF THE COMMITMENT, WE MUST LAND THERE TO MAKE REPAIRS.
LET US HOPE WE DO NOT ENCOUNTER ANY TERRAN CIVILIZATION.

CAPTAIN, WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY!


WHAT IS IT?
UPON INSPECTION OF OUR VESSEL, IT HAS BECOME CLEAR TO ME THAT WE SUSTAINED MUCH MORE DAMAGE THAN WAS ORIGINALLY ASSUMED.
ALL STEADYING THRUSTERS HAVE BEEN KNOCKED OUT.
IT APPEARS THAT WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO LAND.
IS IT POSSIBLE TO REPAIR THE THRUSTERS BEFORE WE REACH THE PLANET?
NOT AT OUR PRESENT SPEED.
ALSO, IF WE SLOW DOWN, OUR LIFE SUPPORT MAY FAIL BEFORE WE REACH THE PLANET.
THEN THERE IS ONLY ONE SOLUTION.
I WILL USE MY TECH JACKET TO GUIDE THE SHIP FROM THE OUTSIDE.
WE HAVE ALREADY LOST TOO MUCH FOR FOR US TO LET THIS MISSION FAIL.


...DAD'S GOING TO KILL ME.
JESUS, SON!
I GIVE YOU FORTY-FIVE MINUTES TO GET HERE AND YOU'RE STILL LATE EVERY DAY.
SORRY, DAD.
HEY, YOU'RE A KID, IF YOU GUYS WERE RESPONSIBLE WE PARENTS WOULD BE OUT OF WORK.
ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH, I'M FINE...
GOOD, BECAUSE I HAVE A LARGE ORDER IN THE BACK THAT NEEDS TO BE CHECKED IN.
C'MON!

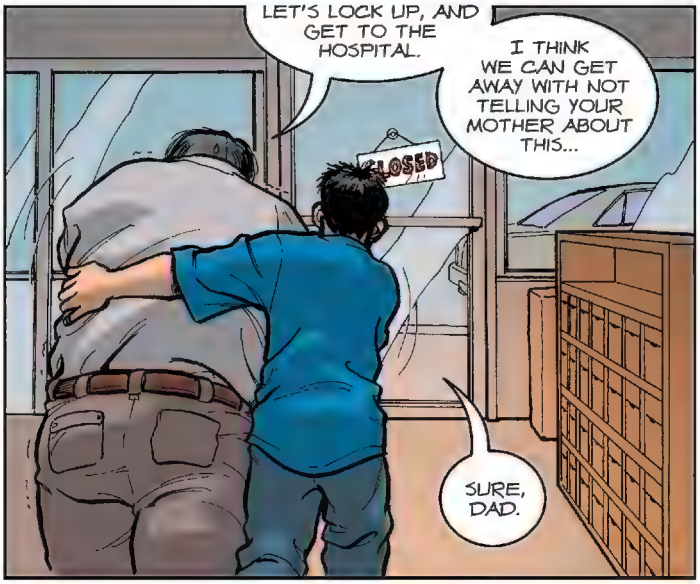
MAKE SURE WE DON'T MISS ANYTHING.
DING DING
A CUSTOMER, THIS LATE? WE'RE ABOUT TO CLOSE.
HOW CAN I HELP YOU GUYS?
HAMMERS?
SURE, WE'VE GOT A TON OF THEM, FOLLOW ME.
AARRGH!!
DAD!

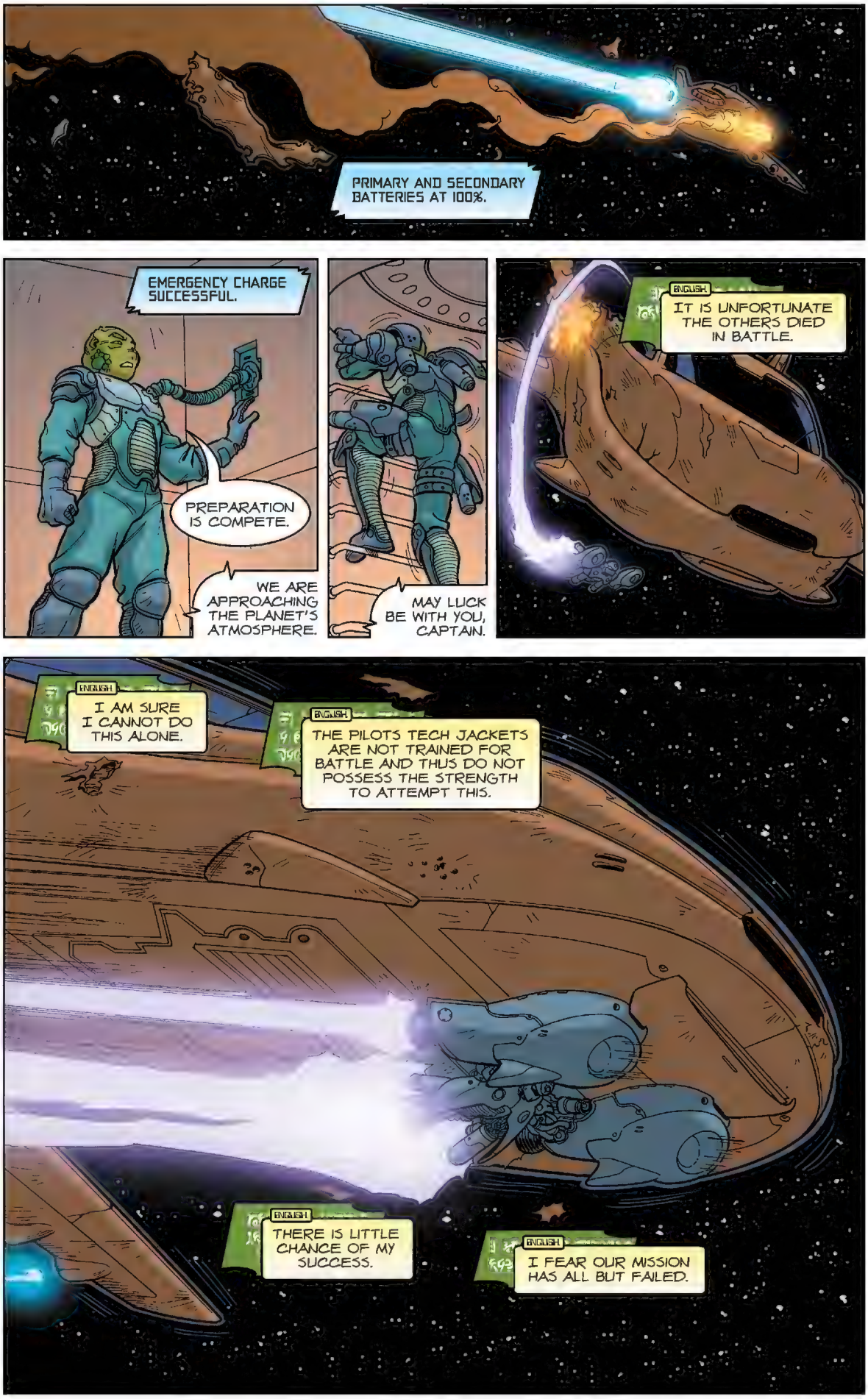
DAD?
MIND YOUR BUSINESS, KID.
YOUR DAD'S IN A MEETING.

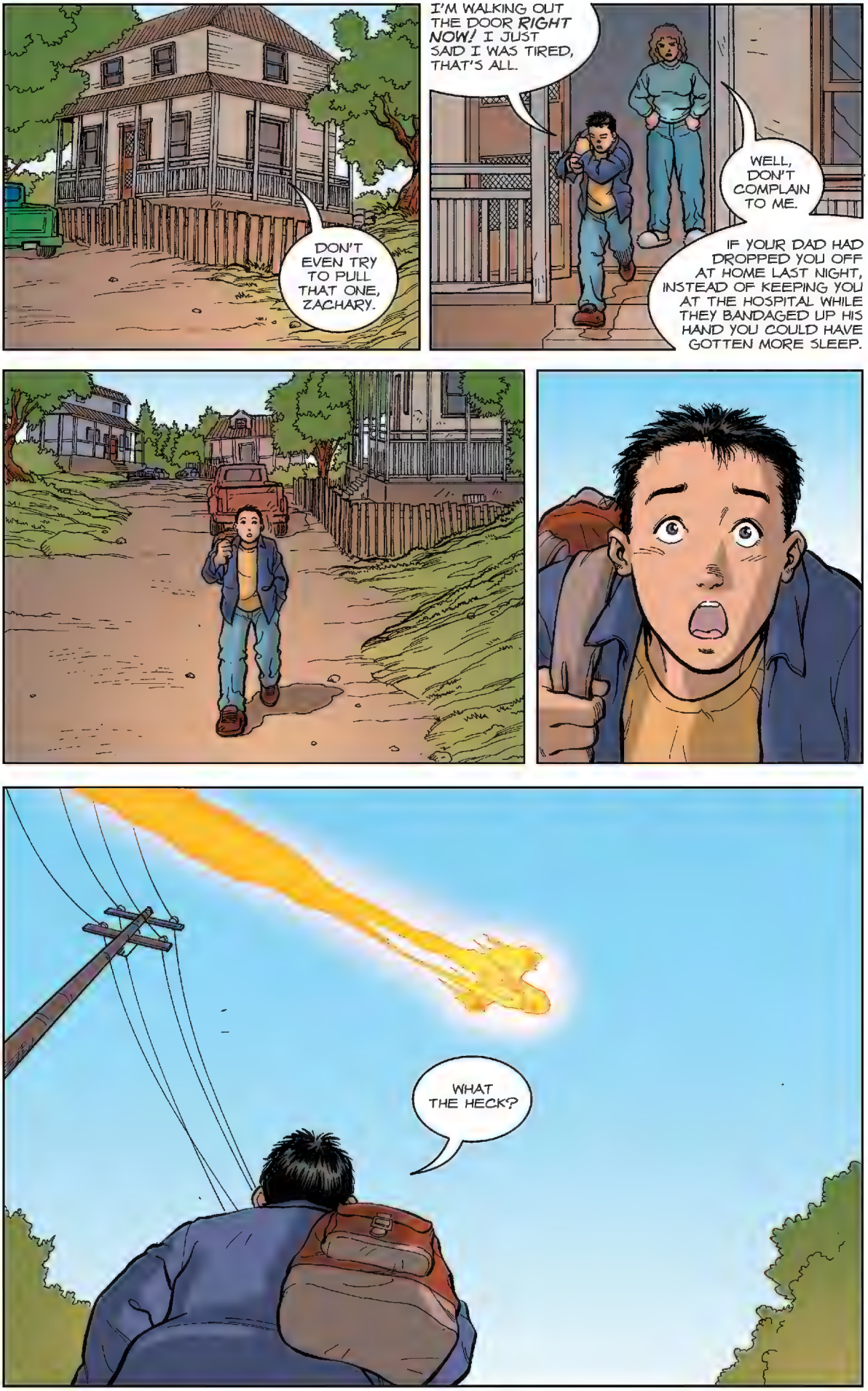
YOU TOOK OUT A LOAN TWO YEARS AGO TO KEEP THIS PLACE ABOVE WATER, ED. NOW, OVER THE LAST YEAR YOUR PAYMENTS HAVE BEEN GETTING SMALLER AND SMALLER.
MR. CAPPELLA IS A PATIENT MAN, BUT HIS PATIENCE ONLY LASTS SO LONG.
DON'T BE STUPID.
I ASSURE YOU, WE CAN DO A LOT MORE THAN BREAK FINGERS.

SEE YOU SOON, ED.

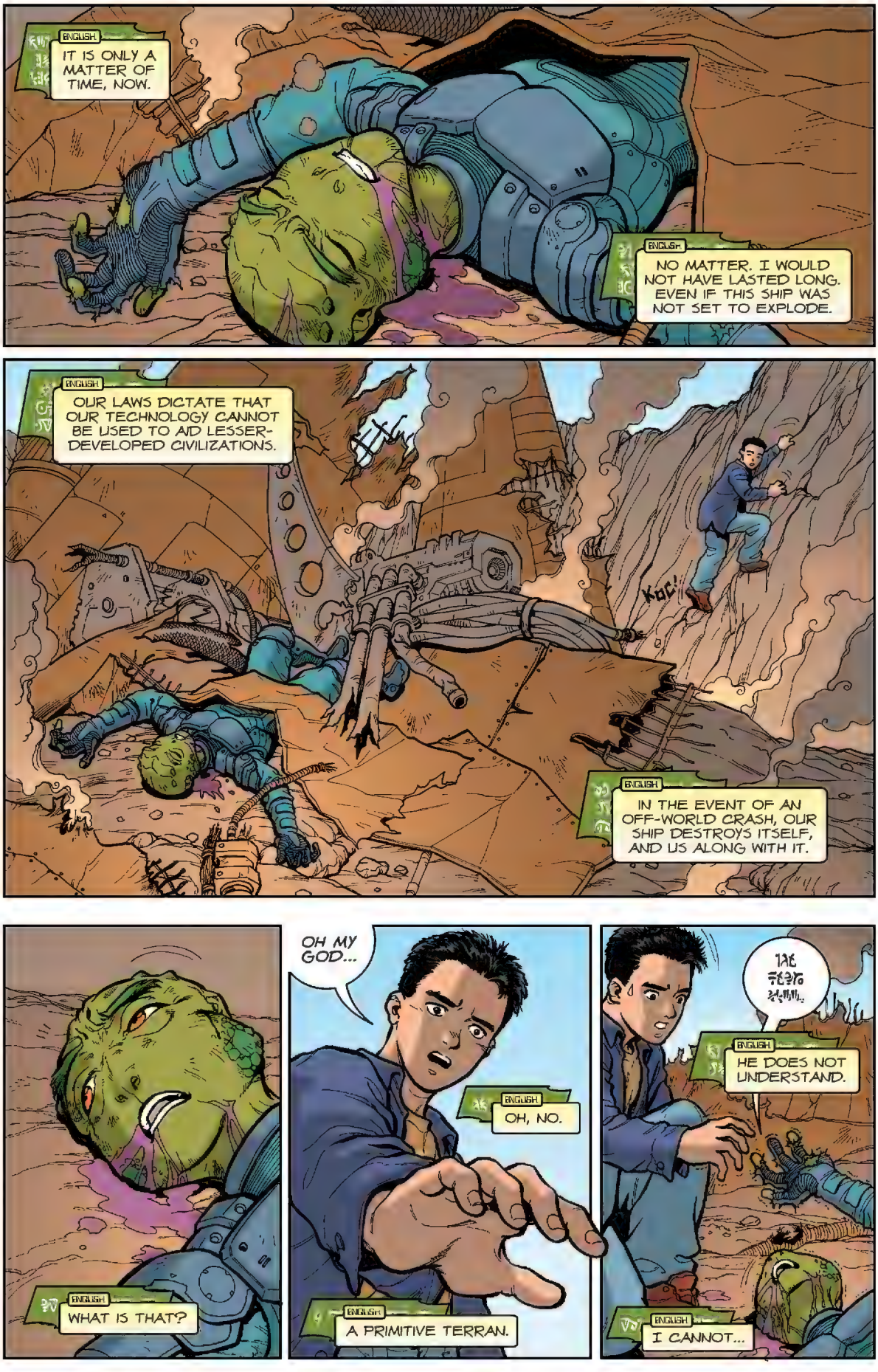
TRUST ME, SON.
DON'T ASK.


LET'S LOCK UP, AND GET TO THE HOSPITAL.
I THINK WE CAN GET AWAY WITH NOT TELLING YOUR MOTHER ABOUT THIS...
CLOSED
SURE, DAD.

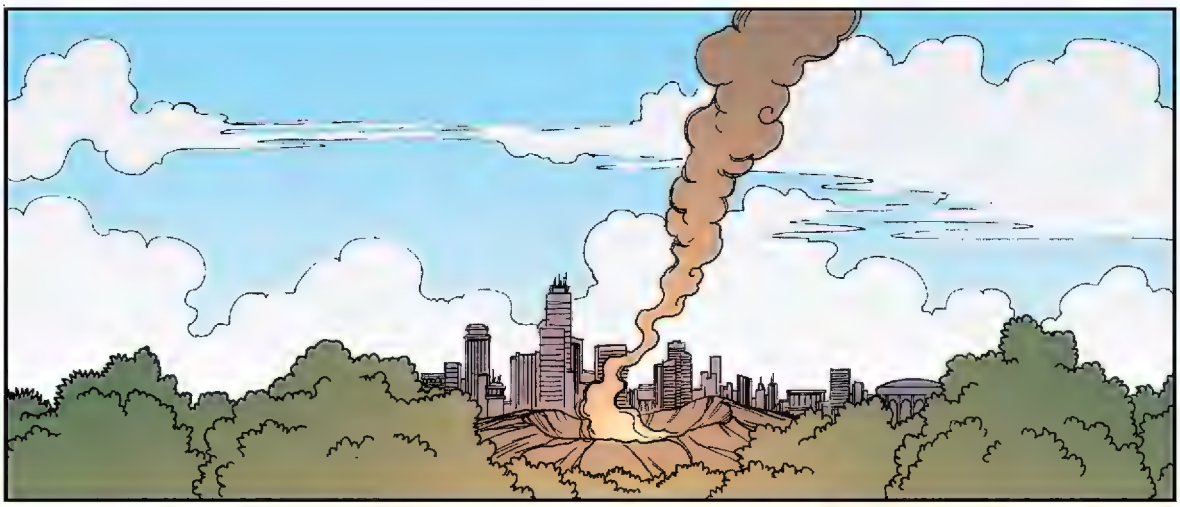

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY BATTERIES AT 100%.
EMERGENCY CHARGE SUCCESSFUL.
PREPARATION IS COMPETE.
WE ARE APPROACHING THE PLANET'S ATMOSPHERE.
MAY LUCK BE WITH YOU, CAPTAIN.
ENGLISH
IT IS UNFORTUNATE THE OTHERS DIED IN BATTLE.
ENGLISH
I AM SURE I CANNOT DO THIS ALONE.
ENGLISH
THE PILOTS TECH JACKETS ARE NOT TRAINED FOR BATTLE AND THUS DO NOT POSSESS THE STRENGTH TO ATTEMPT THIS.
ENGLISH
THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE OF MY SUCCESS.
ENGLISH
I FEAR OUR MISSION HAS ALL BUT FAILED.

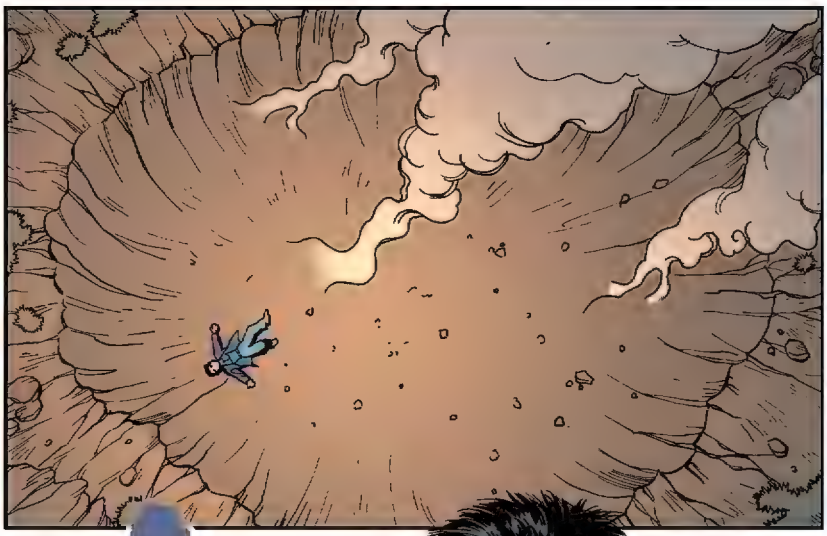

DON'T EVEN TRY TO PULL THAT ONE, ZACHARY.
I'M WALKING OUT THE DOOR RIGHT NOW! I JUST SAID I WAS TIRED, THAT'S ALL.
WELL, DON'T COMPLAIN TO ME.
IF YOUR DAD HAD DROPPED YOU OFF AT HOME LAST NIGHT, INSTEAD OF KEEPING YOU AT THE HOSPITAL WHILE THEY BANDAGED UP HIS HAND YOU COULD HAVE GOTTEN MORE SLEEP.
WHAT THE HECK?

KHOOM!
WHOA.


ENGLISH
IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME, NOW.
ENGLISH
NO MATTER. I WOULD NOT HAVE LASTED LONG. EVEN IF THIS SHIP WAS NOT SET TO EXPLODE.
ENGLISH
OUR LAWS DICTATE THAT OUR TECHNOLOGY CANNOT BE USED TO AID LESSER-DEVELOPED CIVILIZATIONS.
KRAK!
ENGLISH
IN THE EVENT OF AN OFF-WORLD CRASH, OUR SHIP DESTROYS ITSELF, AND US ALONG WITH IT.
ENGLISH
WHAT IS THAT?
OH MY GOD...
ENGLISH
OH, NO.
ENGLISH
A PRIMITIVE TERRAN.
ENGLISH
HE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND.
ENGLISH
I CANNOT...

ENGLISH
...MY DYING ACTION CANNOT BE THE DEATH OF AN INNOCENT.
ENGLISH
I MUST...
ENGLISH
...IT IS THE ONLY WAY.
SHUUU~
THUDUM!





TRANSITIONAL FLUX COMPLETE. FIELD GENERATION SUCCESS.

WHAT THE--?
DAMAGE SUSTAINED 0%. ENERGY CELLS AT 50%. BEGIN RECHARGE NOW.

TechJacket
image
2 DEC
KIRKMAN
IMAGECOMICS.COM

image® COMICS PRESENTS

TechJacket™

CO-CREATOR, WRITER, LETTERER:
ROBERT KIRKMAN

CO-CREATOR, PENCILER, INKER:
E.J. SU

COLORIST:
RON RILEY

COLOR ASSIST:
ALI TAVAKOLY

COLOR ASSIST:
DASH MARTIN

EDITOR:
DEREK PENNINGTON

STUDIO FUNK-O-TRON
WWW.FUNKOTRON.COM

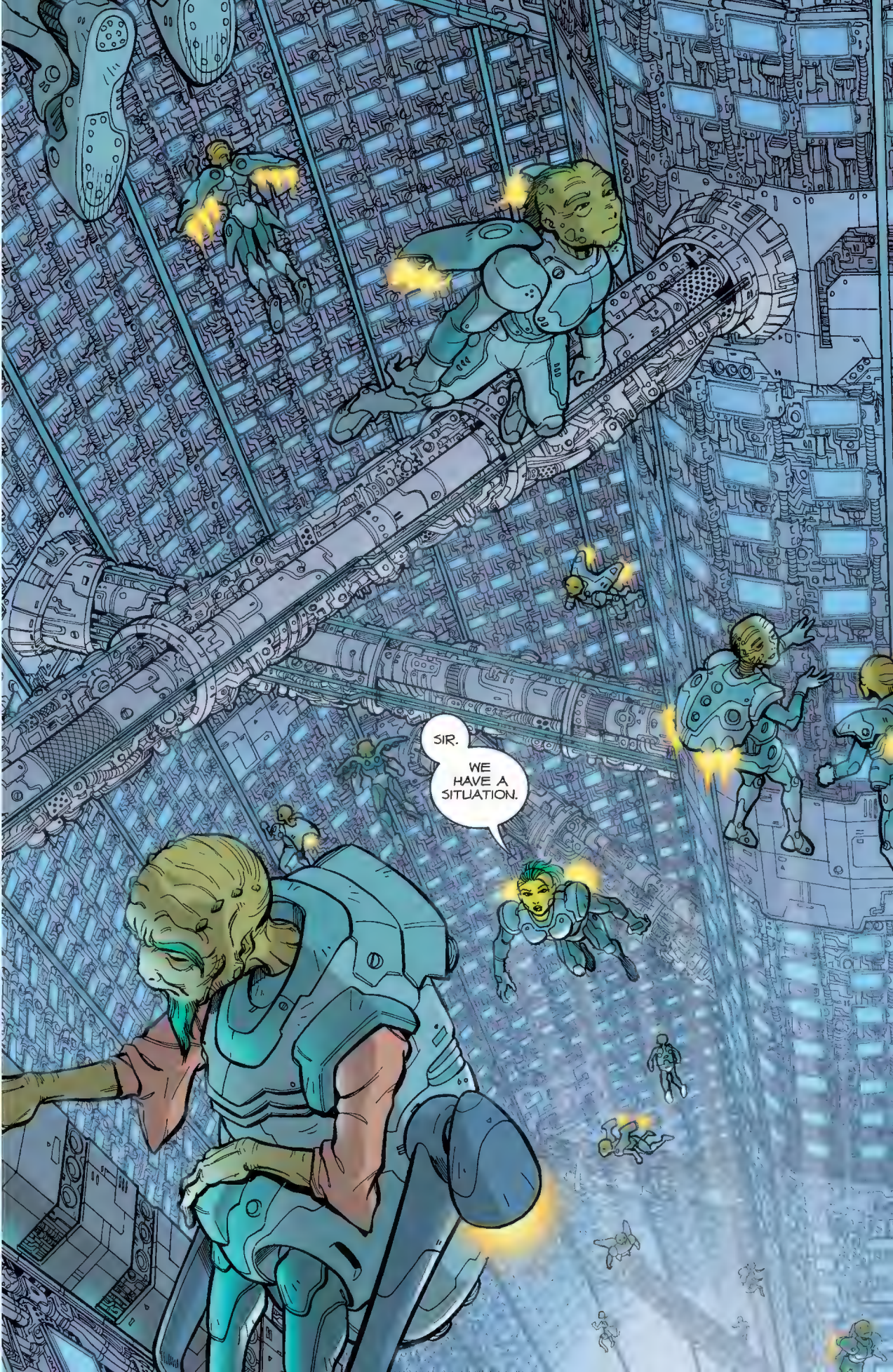
FOR IMAGE COMICS

JIM VALENTINO — PUBLISHER
BRENT BRAUN — DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION
ERIC STEPHENSON — DIRECTOR OF MARKETING
TRACI HALE — CONTROLLER/FOREIGN LICENSING
BRETT EVANS — ART DIRECTOR
ALLEN HUI — WEB DEVELOPER
CINDIE ESPINOZA — ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
PETER MASON HAUGE — INVENTORY CONTROLLER

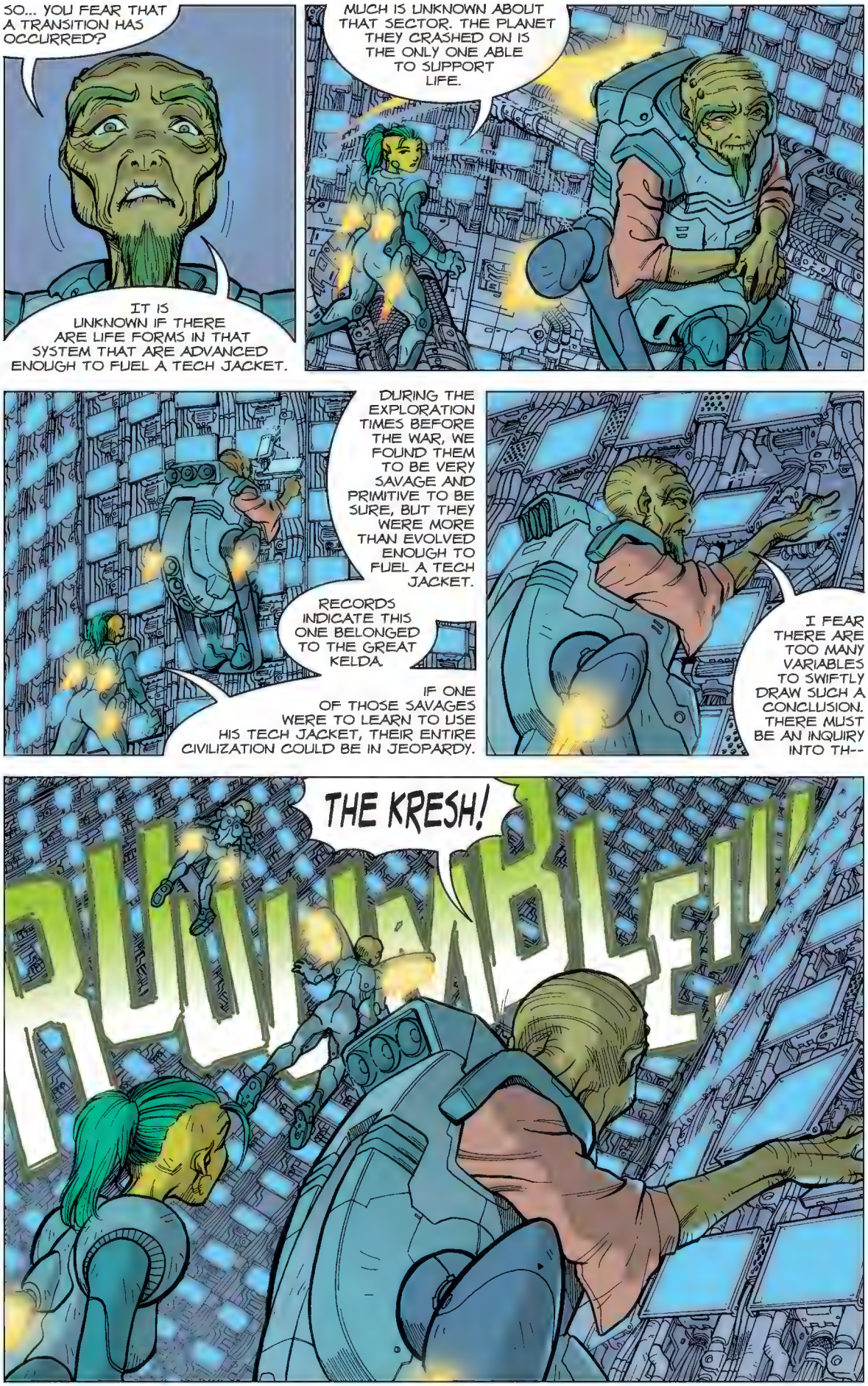
IMAGECOMICS.COM

TECH JACKET VOL. I #2. DECEMBER, 2002. FIRST PRINTING. An Image Comics Group title published by Image Comics 1071 N. Batavia St. Ste A, Orange, CA 92867. TECH JACKET is ™ and © Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su, 2002. All rights reserved. Any similarities to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su. Publisher and creators assume no responsibility for unsolicited materials.

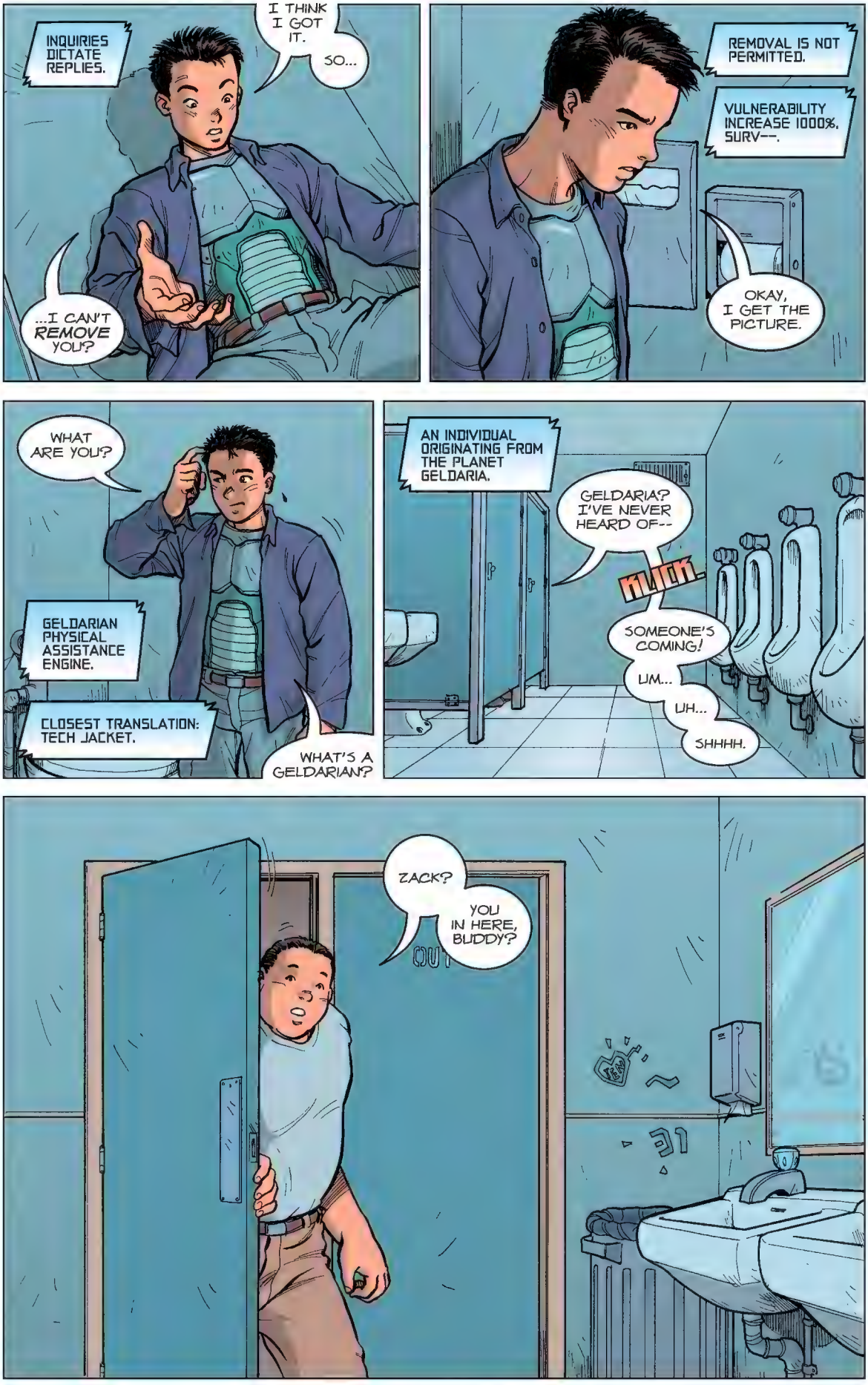
PRINTED IN USA


SIR.
WE HAVE A SITUATION.

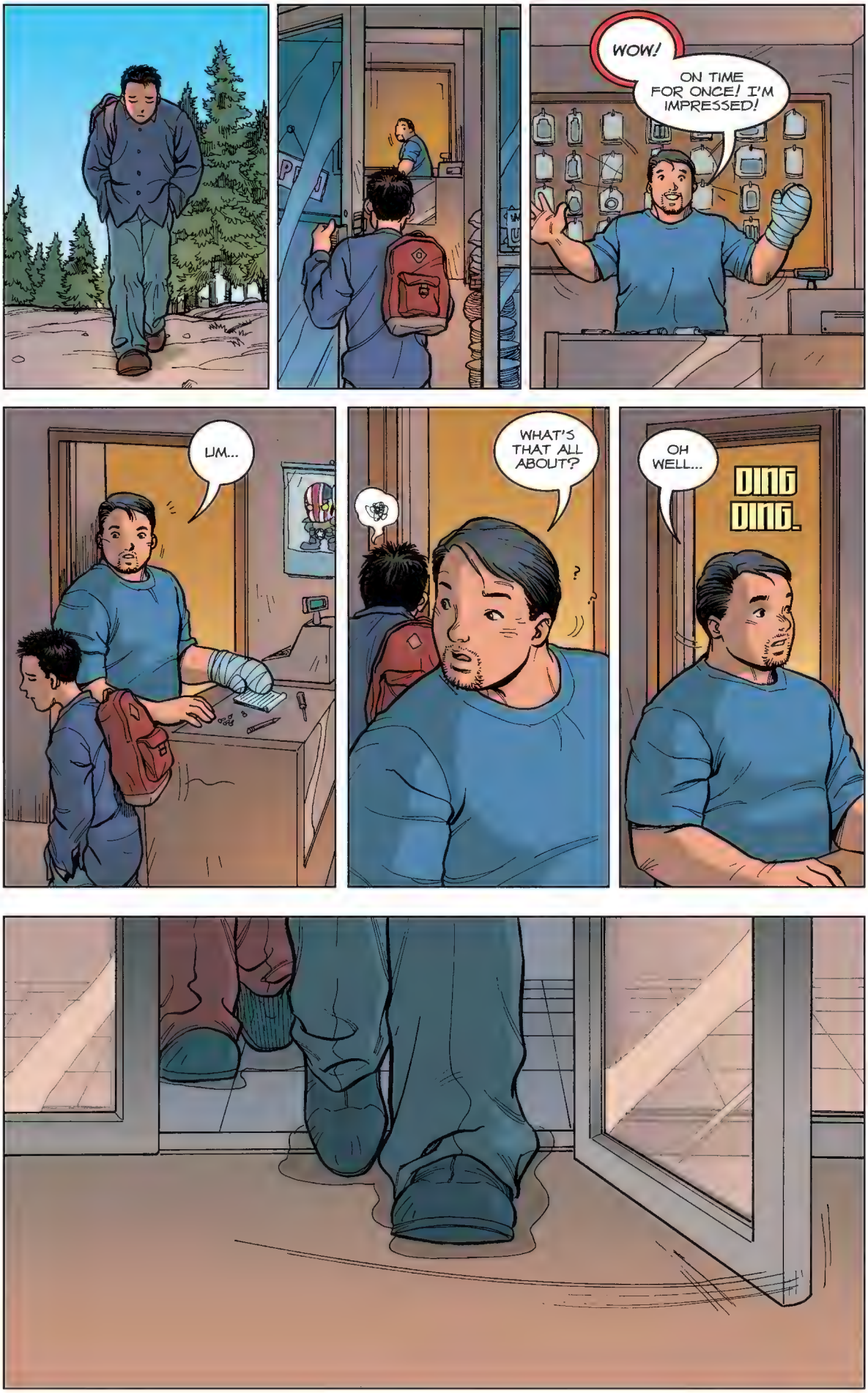
WHAT IS IT? WHAT HAS TRANSPIRED?
IT APPEARS AS THOUGH ANOTHER SCOUT SHIP WE SENT IN SEARCH OF AIDE WAS INTERCEPTED BY THE KRESH.
THOUGH THE KRESH SHIP WAS DESTROYED, THE SCOUT SHIP HAD BEEN BADLY DAMAGED. THEY MADE PREPARATIONS TO DO REPAIRS ON A NEARBY PLANET.
FROM ALL LOGGED RECORDS, WE HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THEY LOST CONTROL OF THE SHIP AND CRASHED. WITH THE ENTIRE CREW DEAD THE SHIP THEN SELF-DESTRUCTED IN COMPLIANCE OF DECREE 978-1.
A TRAGIC LOSS, INDEED.
YES, BUT THAT IS NOT ALL.
AFTER A TRANSITIONAL FLUX, TECH JACKET 00100389-2014-5 RETURNED TO ACTIVE STATUS.


SO... YOU FEAR THAT A TRANSITION HAS OCCURRED?
IT IS UNKNOWN IF THERE ARE LIFE FORMS IN THAT SYSTEM THAT ARE ADVANCED ENOUGH TO FUEL A TECH JACKET.
MUCH IS UNKNOWN ABOUT THAT SECTOR. THE PLANET THEY CRASHED ON IS THE ONLY ONE ABLE TO SUPPORT LIFE.
DURING THE EXPLORATION TIMES BEFORE THE WAR, WE FOUND THEM TO BE VERY SAVAGE AND PRIMITIVE TO BE SURE, BUT THEY WERE MORE THAN EVOLVED ENOUGH TO FUEL A TECH JACKET.
RECORDS INDICATE THIS ONE BELONGED TO THE GREAT KELDA.
IF ONE OF THOSE SAVAGES WERE TO LEARN TO USE HIS TECH JACKET, THEIR ENTIRE CIVILIZATION COULD BE IN JEOPARDY.
I FEAR THERE ARE TOO MANY VARIABLES TO SWIFTLY DRAW SUCH A CONCLUSION. THERE MUST BE AN INQUIRY INTO TH--
THE KRESH!
PUMMEL!

=UNGH=
=UMPH=
IN
=GRUNT=
=UFF=
OH, GOD. I CAN'T GET IF OFF!
=UNGH=
WHY WON'T IT COME OFF?
REMOVAL IS NOT PERMITTED.
VULNERABILITY INCREASE 1000%, SURVIVAL ODDS DECREASE 500%.
EXECUTIVE DECREE 574-3 DEEMED REMOVAL FORBIDDEN.
YOU-- YOU ANSWER QUESTIONS?!


INQUIRIES DICTATE REPLIES.
I THINK I GOT IT.
SO...
...I CAN'T REMOVE YOU?
REMOVAL IS NOT PERMITTED.
VULNERABILITY INCREASE 1000%. SURV--.
OKAY, I GET THE PICTURE.
WHAT ARE YOU?
GELDARIAN PHYSICAL ASSISTANCE ENGINE.
CLOSEST TRANSLATION: TECH JACKET.
WHAT'S A GELDARIAN?
AN INDIVIDUAL ORIGINATING FROM THE PLANET GELDARIA.
GELDARIA? I'VE NEVER HEARD OF--
KLICK
SOMEONE'S COMING!
UM...
UH...
SHHHH.
ZACK?
YOU IN HERE, BUDDY?
OUT

YEAH, MAN.
I'M RIGHT HERE.
WHAT'S THE DEAL, MAN?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ABSENT, BUT DANIEL SAID HE SAW YOU WALK IN HERE EARLIER.
HAVE YOU BEEN IN HERE ALL DAY?
I--I'M... I'M NOT FEELING WELL.
I KNOW, MAN. I HEARD ABOUT WHAT REBECCA DID...
I HAD FORGOTTEN ABOUT *THAT!*
OUT
SURE, MAN, WHATEVER.
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE... CLASSES ARE ABOUT TO CHANGE.
OUT

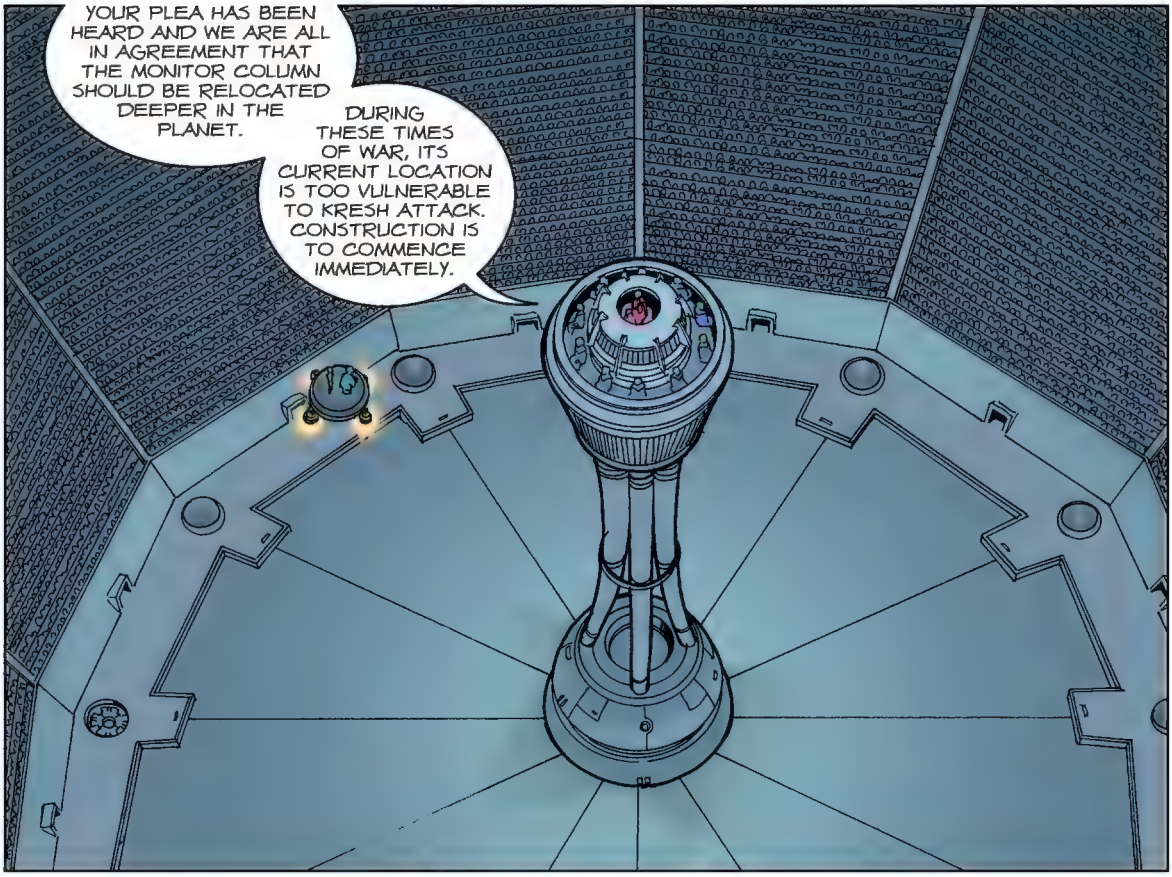

WOW!
ON TIME FOR ONCE! I'M IMPRESSED!
UM...
WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?
?
OH WELL...
DING DING.

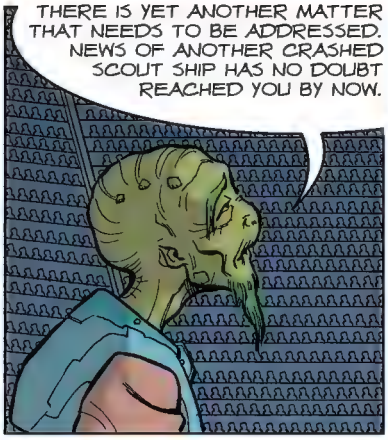
I BELIEVE YOU WERE EXPECTING US...
I'M DOING ALL I CAN!
I CAN'T COME UP WITH THAT KIND OF MONEY OVERNIGHT!
THEN MAYBE YOU AREN'T TRYING HARD ENOUGH.
MAYBE YOU NEED TO BE REMINDED OF HOW IMPORTANT THIS SITUATION IS...
CHOOM!
IS IT ALL COMING BACK TO YOU, NOW?
HOME TODAY
HOME GARDEN
DO IT YOURS

YOU REMEMBER TAKING THE MONEY, DON'T YOU?
YOU REMEMBER HOW YOU WERE ABOUT TO GO OUT OF BUSINESS?
DID YOU NOT REALIZE WHERE THE MONEY WAS COMING FROM?
DID YOU THINK YOU COULD GET AWAY WITH NOT PAYING?
NOT A VERY SMART MOVE...
...OF COURSE, YOU MUST REALIZE THAT...
...NOW!
KRAK!
IF NOT, YOU WILL IN A SECOND....
DAD?
DAD!

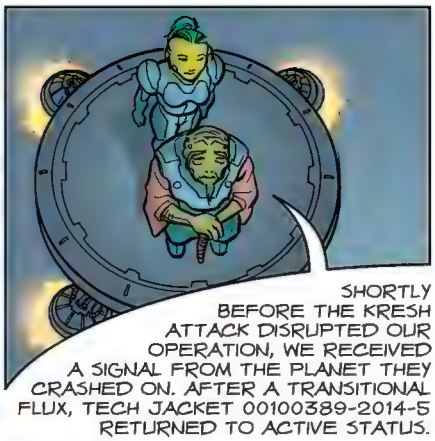
DON'T TOUCH HIM!

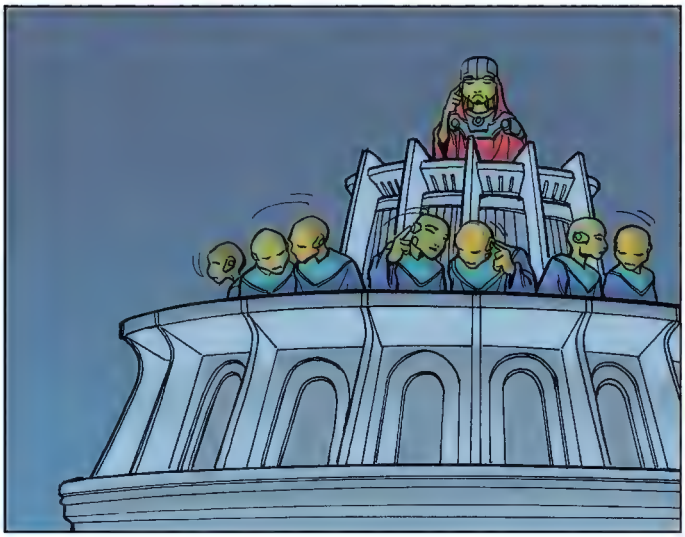
I--
I--!
MR. CAPPELLA ISN'T GOING TO LIKE THIS.
YOU'VE REALLY DONE IT NOW.
WHAT--? HOW DID I--?
UGH-- FREAK!
YOUR FREAK KID ISN'T GOING TO BE AROUND TO PROTECT YOU ALL THE TIME.
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF US.
LET'S CLEAN THIS MESS UP BEFORE ANY CUSTOMERS COME IN.
THEN... WE'RE GOING TO TALK...
PLEASE, DON'T TELL MOM.
I WON'T TELL ON YOU IF YOU WON'T TELL ON ME.

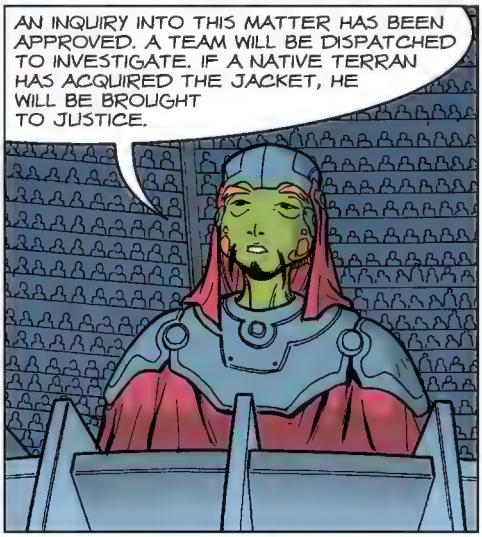

YOUR PLEA HAS BEEN HEARD AND WE ARE ALL IN AGREEMENT THAT THE MONITOR COLUMN SHOULD BE RELOCATED DEEPER IN THE PLANET.
DURING THESE TIMES OF WAR, ITS CURRENT LOCATION IS TOO VULNERABLE TO KRESH ATTACK. CONSTRUCTION IS TO COMMENCE IMMEDIATELY.

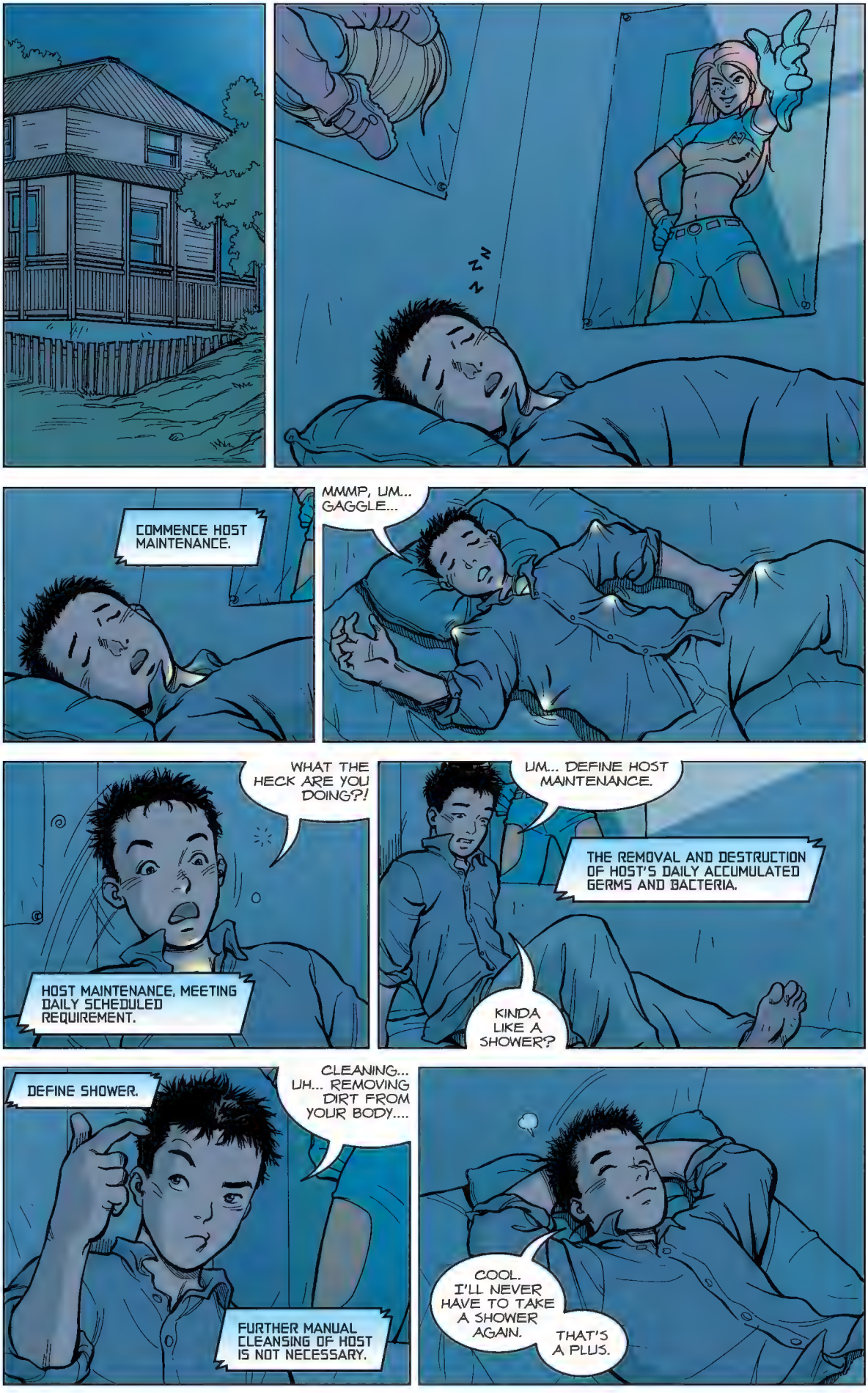

THERE IS YET ANOTHER MATTER THAT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED. NEWS OF ANOTHER CRASHED SCOUT SHIP HAS NO DOUBT REACHED YOU BY NOW.

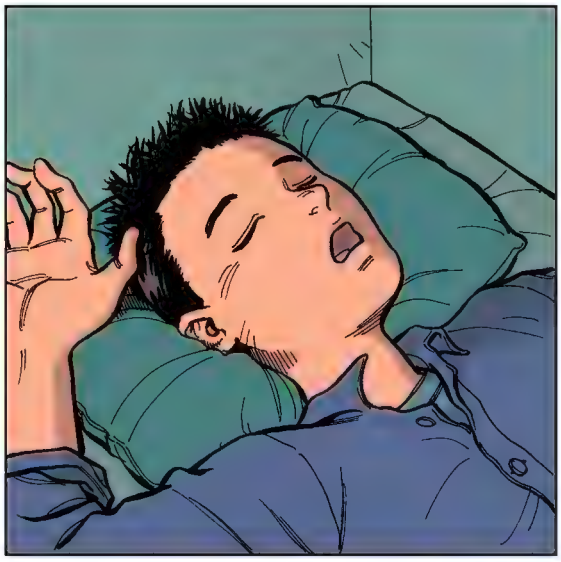
YES, THAT IS VERY UNFORTUNATE. WE MUST KEEP FAITH IN THE REMAINING SCOUT SHIPS, THEY ARE OUR LAST HOPE FOR RESOLUTION.

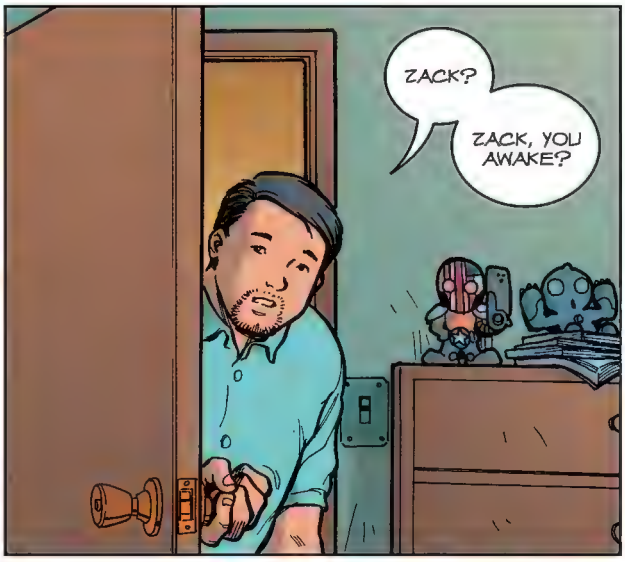

SHORTLY BEFORE THE KRESH ATTACK DISRUPTED OUR OPERATION, WE RECEIVED A SIGNAL FROM THE PLANET THEY CRASHED ON. AFTER A TRANSITIONAL FLUX, TECH JACKET 00100389-2014-5 RETURNED TO ACTIVE STATUS.



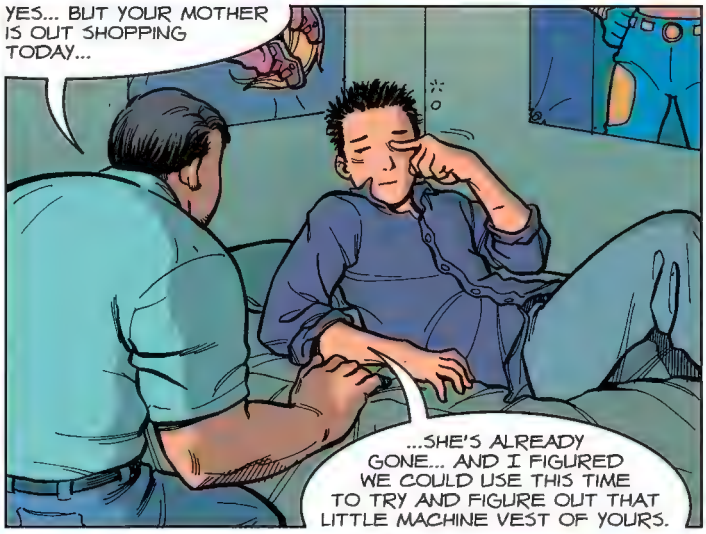

AN INQUIRY INTO THIS MATTER HAS BEEN APPROVED. A TEAM WILL BE DISPATCHED TO INVESTIGATE. IF A NATIVE TERRAN HAS ACQUIRED THE JACKET, HE WILL BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.


COMMENCE HOST MAINTENANCE.
MMMP, UM... GAGGLE...
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?!
HOST MAINTENANCE, MEETING DAILY SCHEDULED REQUIREMENT.
UM... DEFINE HOST MAINTENANCE.
THE REMOVAL AND DESTRUCTION OF HOST'S DAILY ACCUMULATED GERMS AND BACTERIA.
KINDA LIKE A SHOWER?
DEFINE SHOWER.
CLEANING... UH... REMOVING DIRT FROM YOUR BODY....
FURTHER MANUAL CLEANSING OF HOST IS NOT NECESSARY.
COOL. I'LL NEVER HAVE TO TAKE A SHOWER AGAIN.
THAT'S A PLUS.



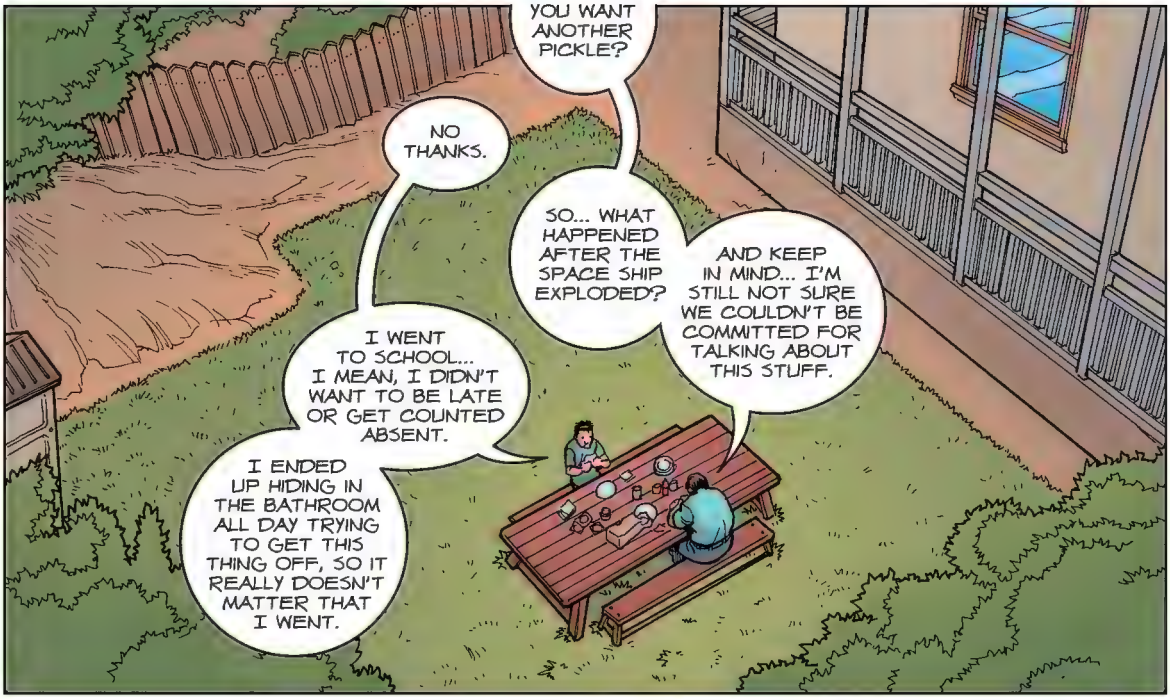

ZACK?
ZACK, YOU AWAKE?

WHA--?
DAD?
NO...
...
IT'S SATURDAY.

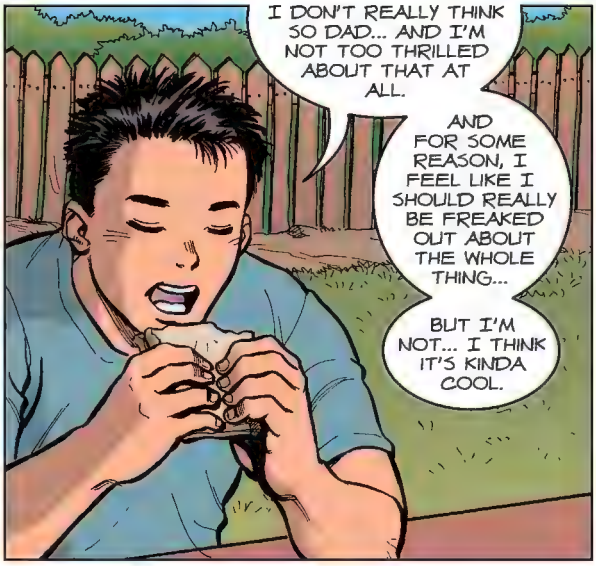

YES... BUT YOUR MOTHER IS OUT SHOPPING TODAY...
...SHE'S ALREADY GONE... AND I FIGURED WE COULD USE THIS TIME TO TRY AND FIGURE OUT THAT LITTLE MACHINE VEST OF YOURS.

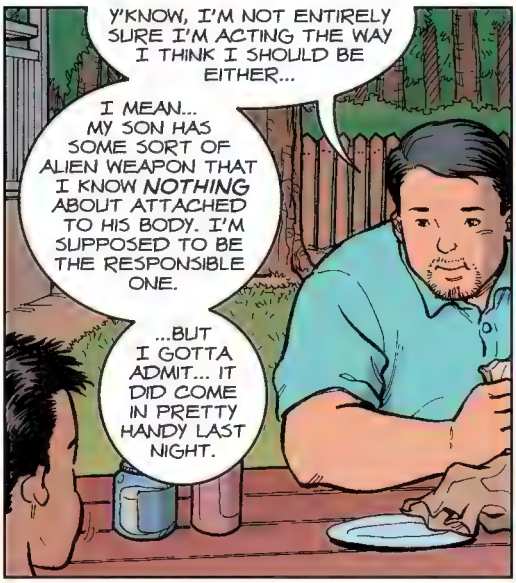
SURE, DAD... JUST LET ME GET ANOTHER HALF HOUR OR SO OF SLEEP.
OKAY, SON, THAT'S FINE.
COOL, JUST WAIT UNTIL I TELL YOU ABOUT THE HOST MAINTENANCE.

HOST MAINTENANCE?

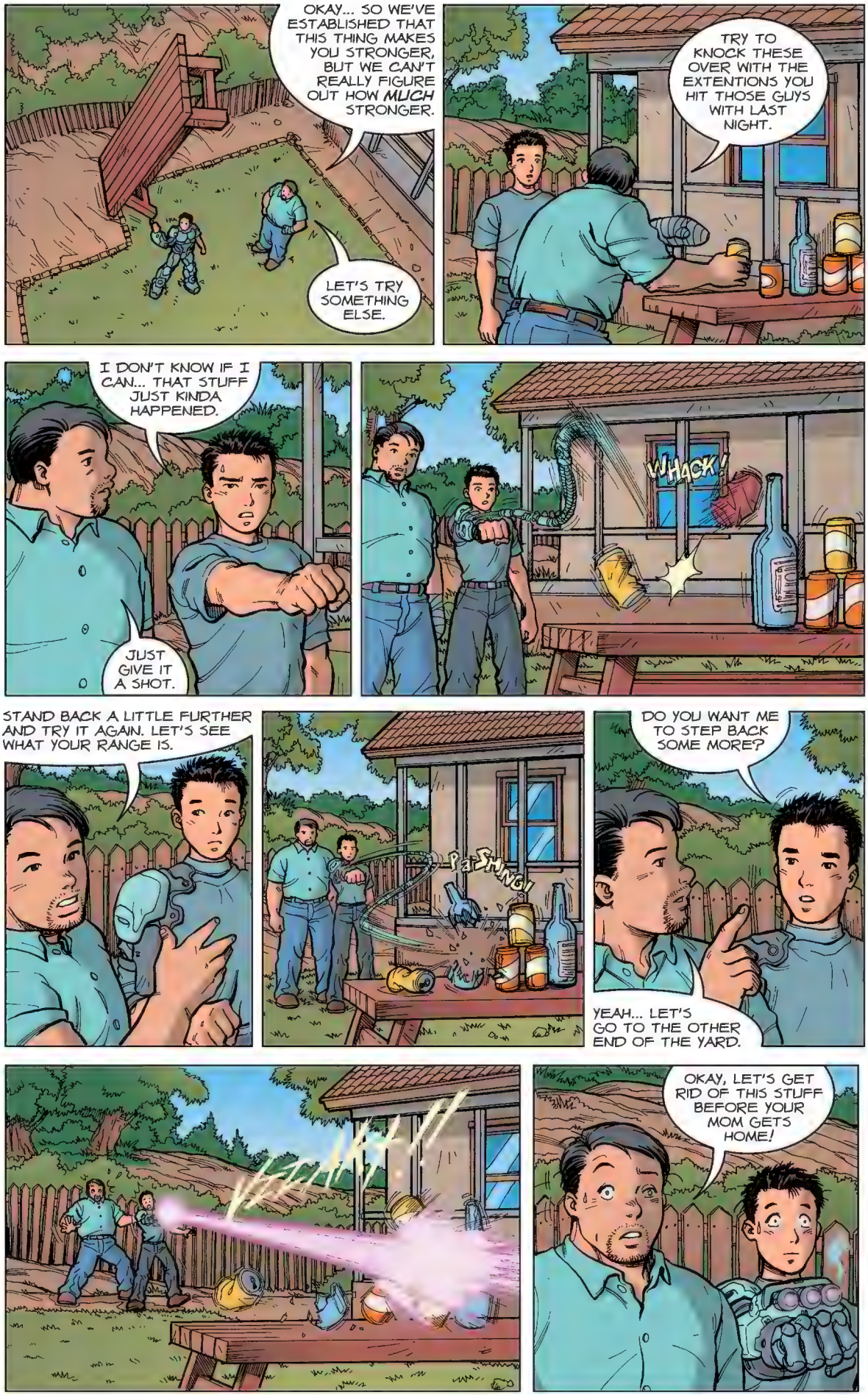

YOU WANT ANOTHER PICKLE?
NO THANKS.
SO... WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE SPACE SHIP EXPLODED?
AND KEEP IN MIND... I'M STILL NOT SURE WE COULDN'T BE COMMITTED FOR TALKING ABOUT THIS STUFF.
I WENT TO SCHOOL... I MEAN, I DIDN'T WANT TO BE LATE OR GET COUNTED ABSENT.
I ENDED UP HIDING IN THE BATHROOM ALL DAY TRYING TO GET THIS THING OFF, SO IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER THAT I WENT.

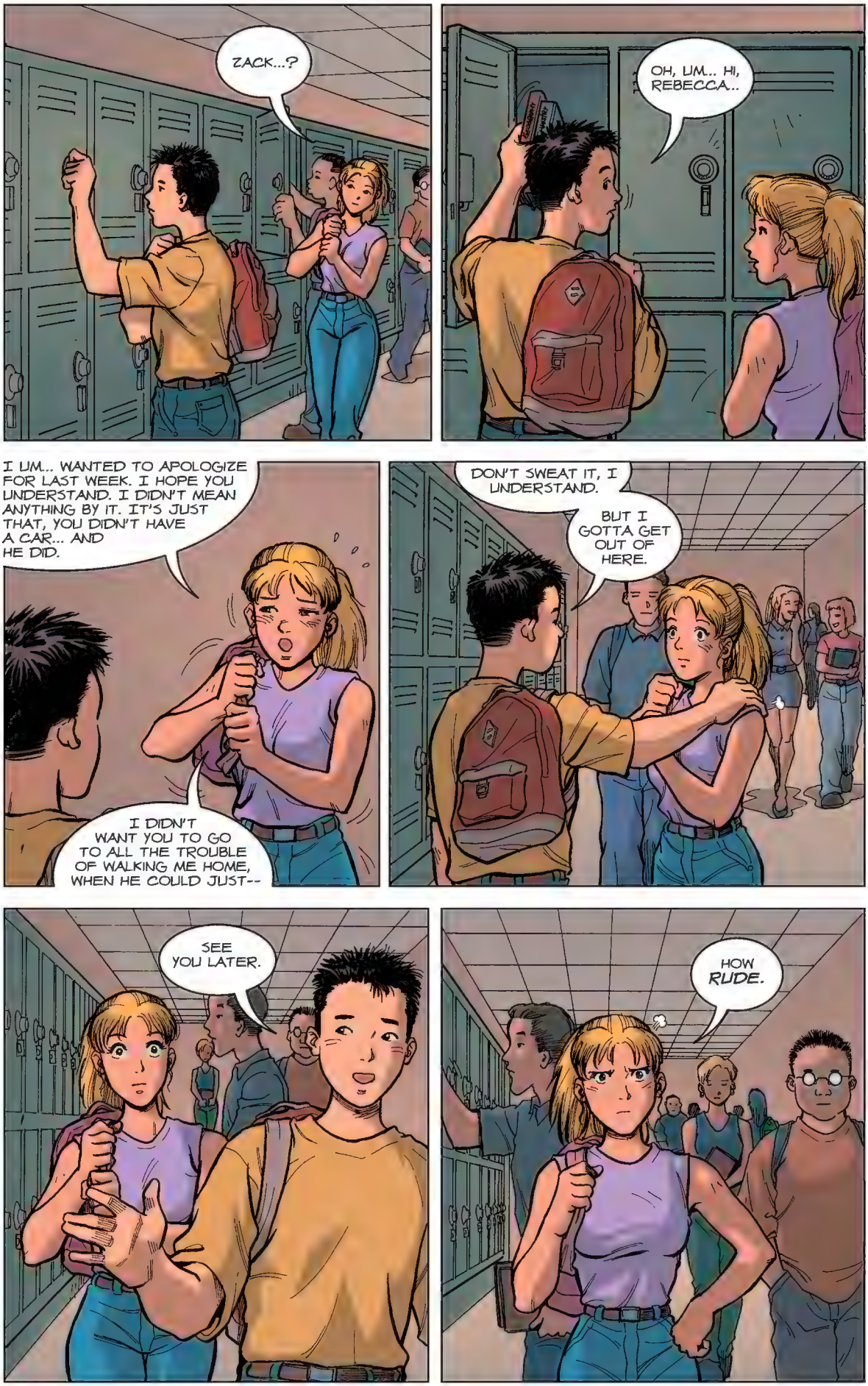
SO... YOU CAN'T TAKE THAT THING OFF?
EVER?


I DON'T REALLY THINK SO DAD... AND I'M NOT TOO THRILLED ABOUT THAT AT ALL.
AND FOR SOME REASON, I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD REALLY BE FREAKED OUT ABOUT THE WHOLE THING...
BUT I'M NOT... I THINK IT'S KINDA COOL.


Y'KNOW, I'M NOT ENTIRELY SURE I'M ACTING THE WAY I THINK I SHOULD BE EITHER...
I MEAN... MY SON HAS SOME SORT OF ALIEN WEAPON THAT I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT ATTACHED TO HIS BODY. I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE RESPONSIBLE ONE.
...BUT I GOTTA ADMIT... IT DID COME IN PRETTY HANDY LAST NIGHT.

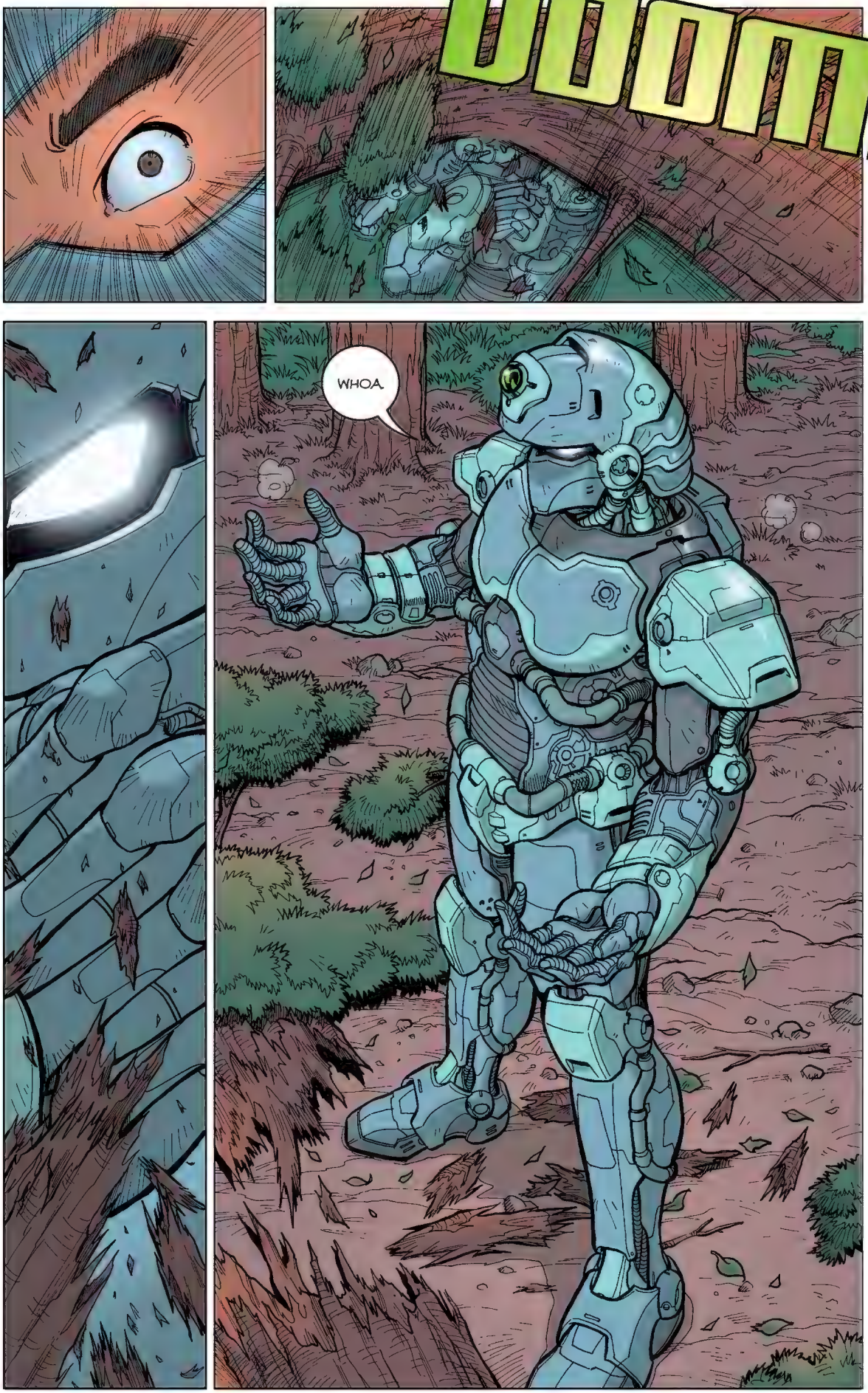
KINDA MAKES YOU WONDER WHAT I COULD DO IF I KNEW HOW TO USE IT, HUH?


OKAY... SO WE'VE ESTABLISHED THAT THIS THING MAKES YOU STRONGER, BUT WE CAN'T REALLY FIGURE OUT HOW *MUCH* STRONGER.
LET'S TRY SOMETHING ELSE.
TRY TO KNOCK THESE OVER WITH THE EXTENTIONS YOU HIT THOSE GUYS WITH LAST NIGHT.
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN... THAT STUFF JUST KINDA HAPPENED.
JUST GIVE IT A SHOT.
WHACK!
STAND BACK A LITTLE FURTHER AND TRY IT AGAIN. LET'S SEE WHAT YOUR RANGE IS.
PATSHING!
DO YOU WANT ME TO STEP BACK SOME MORE?
YEAH... LET'S GO TO THE OTHER END OF THE YARD.
OKAY, LET'S GET RID OF THIS STUFF BEFORE YOUR MOM GETS HOME!


ZACK...?
OH, UM... HI, REBECCA...
I UM... WANTED TO APOLOGIZE FOR LAST WEEK. I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND. I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT. IT'S JUST THAT, YOU DIDN'T HAVE A CAR... AND HE DID.
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO GO TO ALL THE TROUBLE OF WALKING ME HOME, WHEN HE COULD JUST--
DON'T SWEAT IT, I UNDERSTAND.
BUT I GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE.
SEE YOU LATER.
HOW RUDE.

WHAT THE HECK, I'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME... BESIDES, IF I'M LATE, DAD WILL UNDERSTAND.
ALRIGHT...

WOO HOO!
YEAH!
WOOSH!
OH, CRAP!
VRACH!
CCRRRRRREEEEEEEEAAAAAA


DOOM!
WHOA.

HOLY SMOKES! THIS IS THE COOLEST THING EVER!
SLROOM!
TOO COOL!
ZRA-BOOM!

YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUIRED, VILLAIN.

TechJacket
image
3
JAN
KIRKMAN
SU
IMAGECOMICS.COM

image® COMICS PRESENTS

TechJacket™

CO-CREATOR, WRITER, LETTERER:
ROBERT KIRKMAN

CO-CREATOR, PENCILER, INKER:
E.J. SU

COLORIST:
RON RILEY

STUDIO FUNK-O-TRON
WWW.FUNKOTRON.COM

FOR IMAGE COMICS

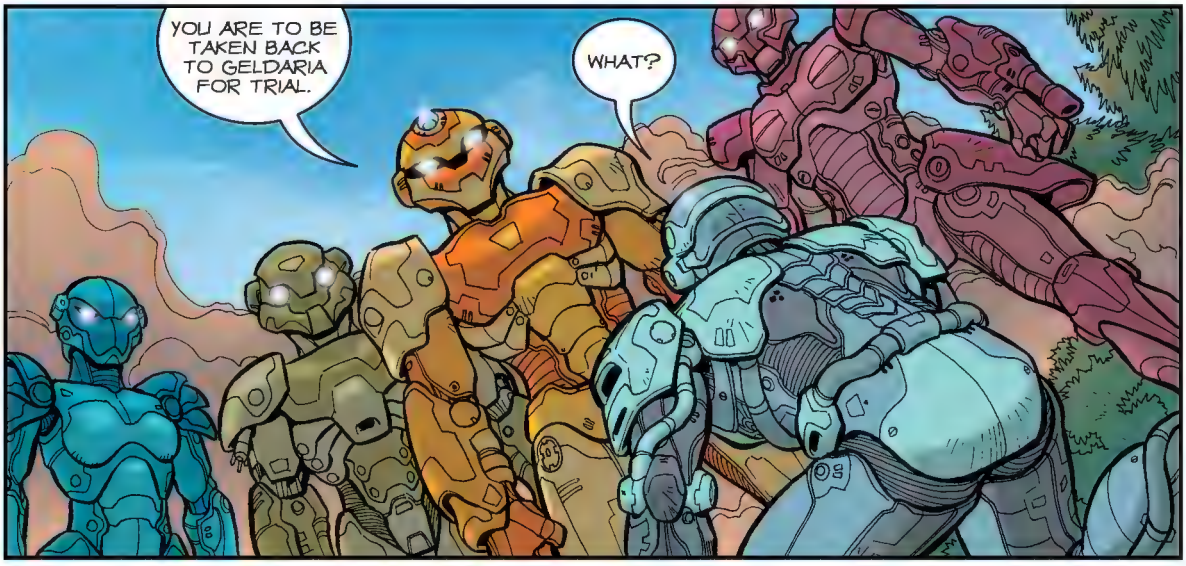
JIM VALENTINO *PUBLISHER*	BRENT BRAUN *DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION*	ERIC STEPHENSON *DIRECTOR OF MARKETING*	TRACI HALE *CONTROLLER/FOREIGN LICENSING*
BRETT EVANS *ART DIRECTOR*	ALLEN HUI *WEB DEVELOPER*	CINDIE ESPINOZA *ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT*	PETER MASON HAUGE *TRAFFIC*

WWW.IMAGECOMICS.COM

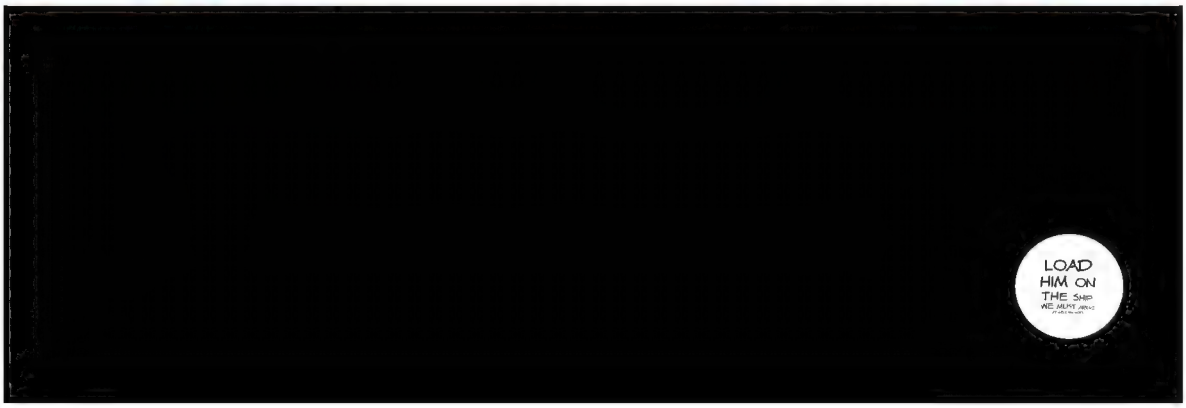
TECH JACKET VOL. 1 #3. JANUARY, 2003. FIRST PRINTING. An Image Comics Group title published by Image Comics 1071 N. Batavia St. Ste A, Orange, CA 92867.

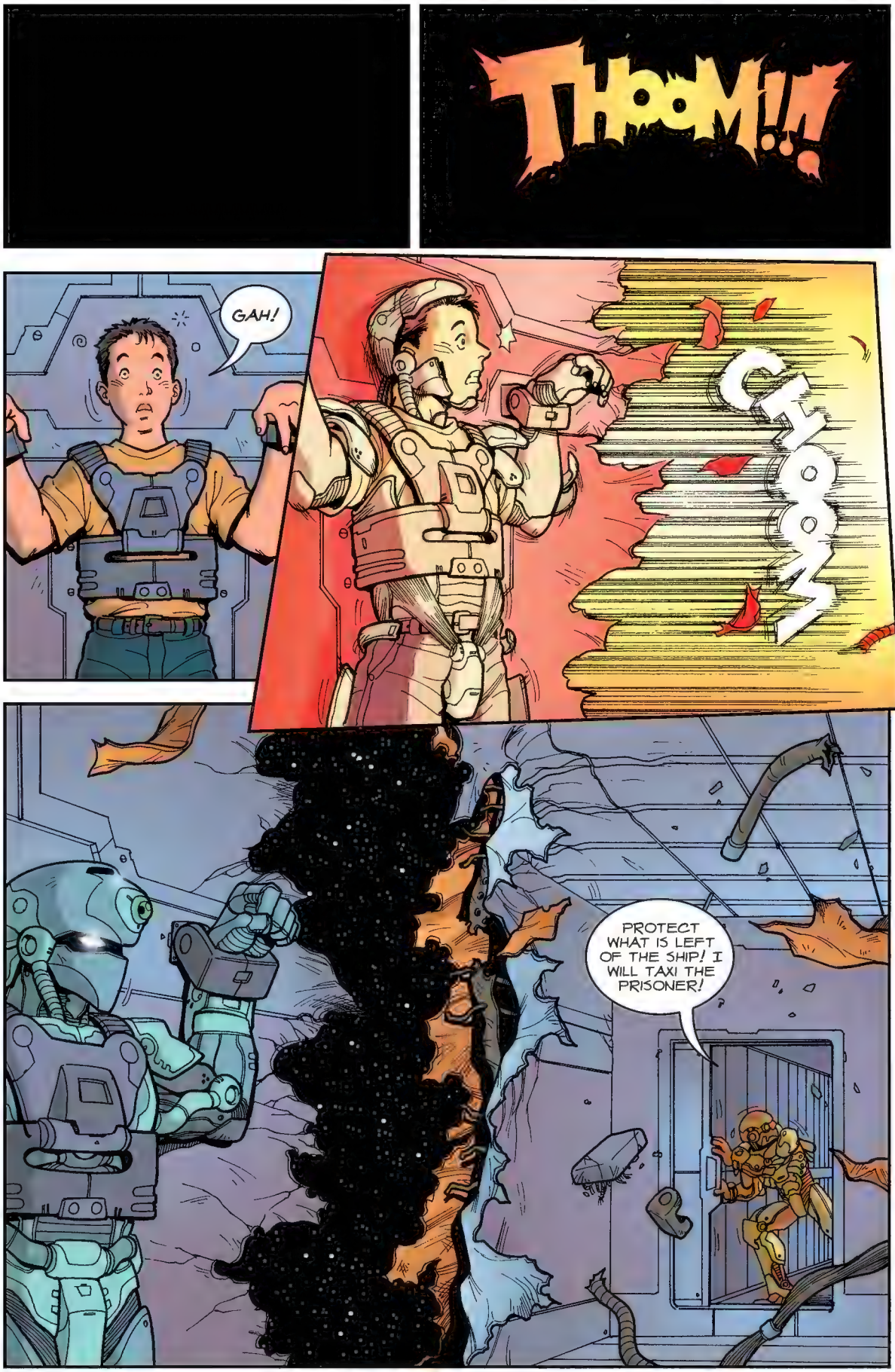
TECH JACKET is ™ and © Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su, 2003. All rights reserved. Any similarities to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su. Publisher and creators assume no responsibility for unsolicited materials.

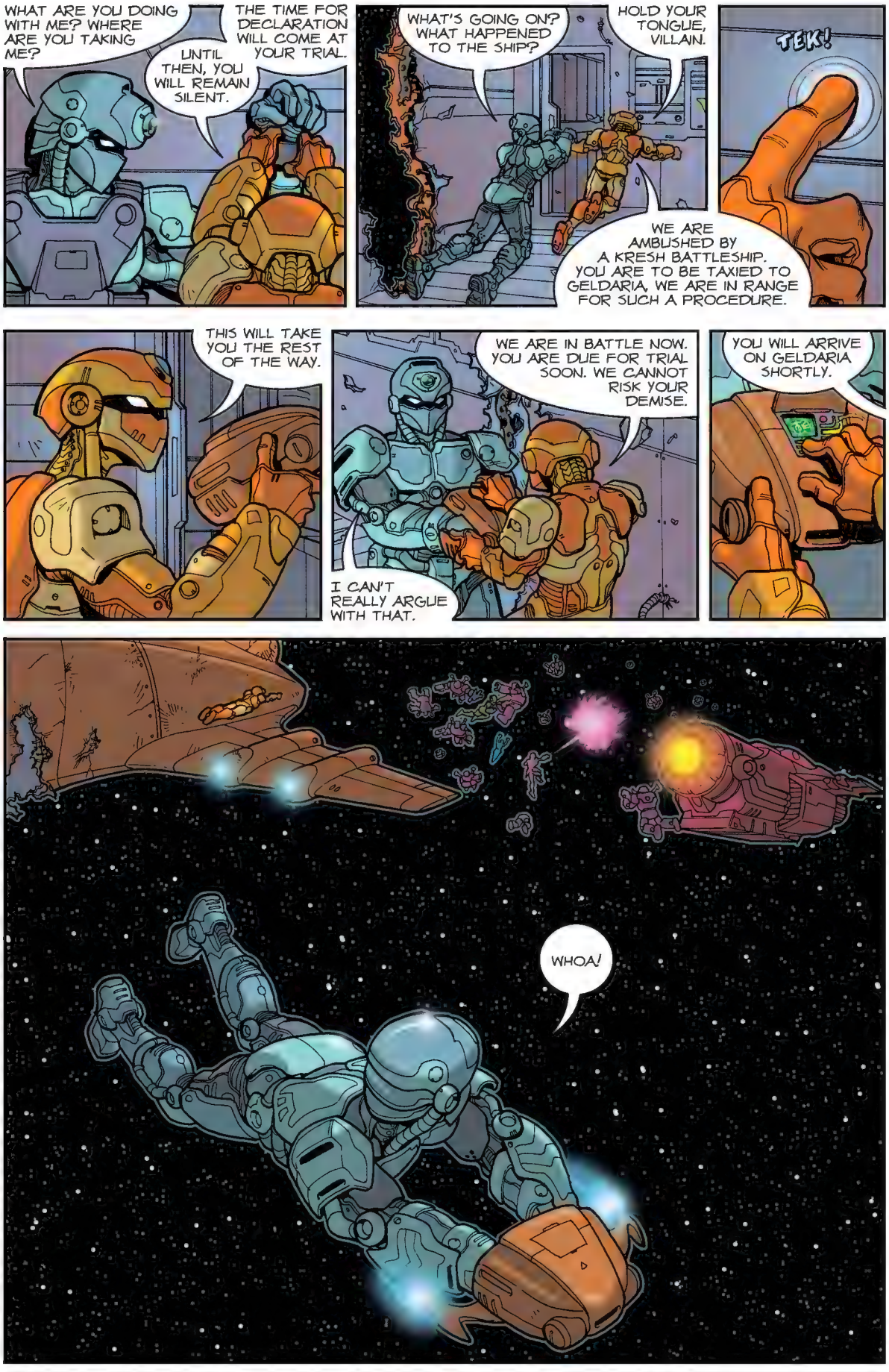
PRINTED IN USA


YOU ARE TO BE TAKEN BACK TO GELDARIA FOR TRIAL.
WHAT?

SILENCE!
LLLAACKTCH


LOAD HIM ON THE SHIP WE MUST

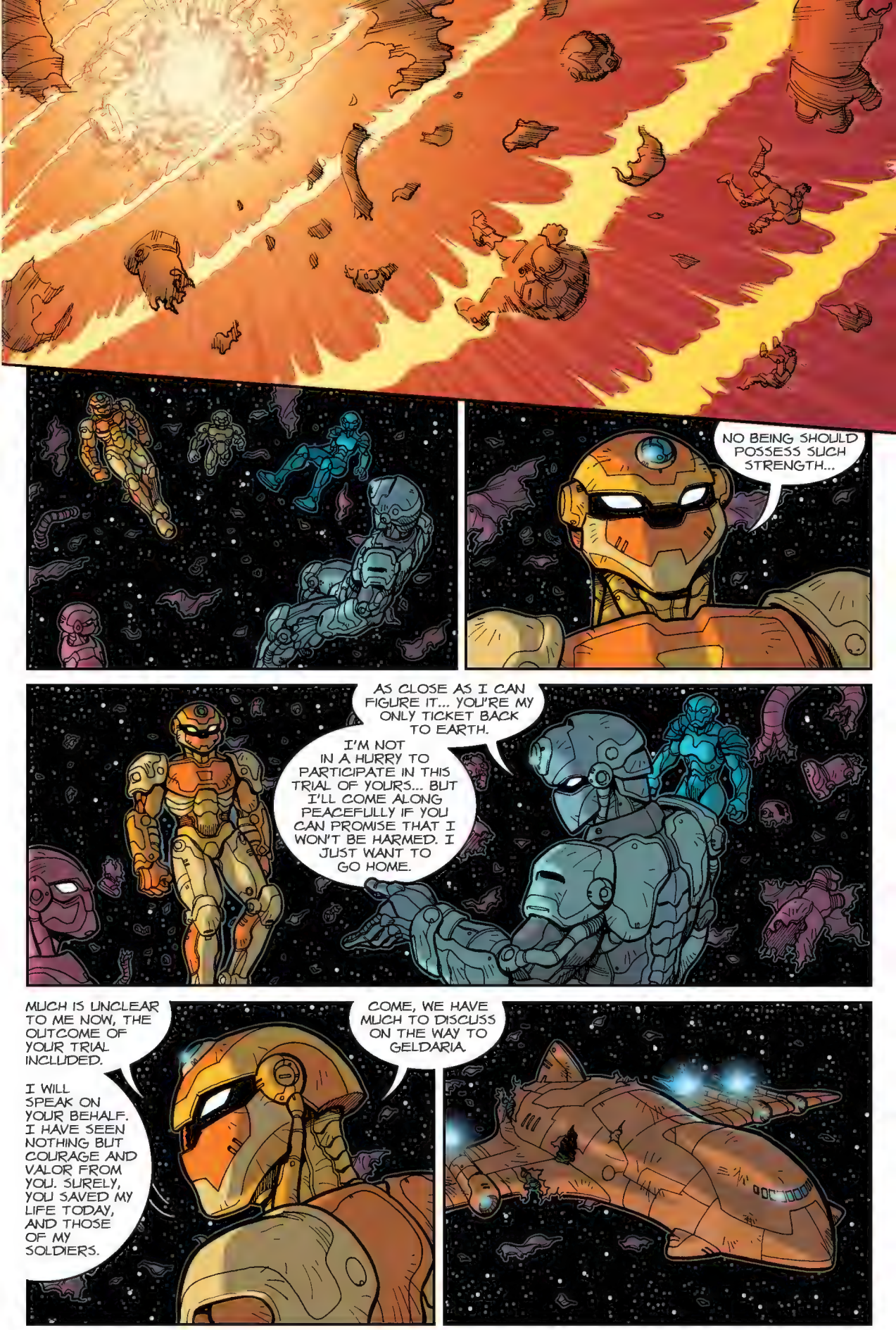

THOOM!!!
GAH!
CHOOM
PROTECT WHAT IS LEFT OF THE SHIP! I WILL TAXI THE PRISONER!

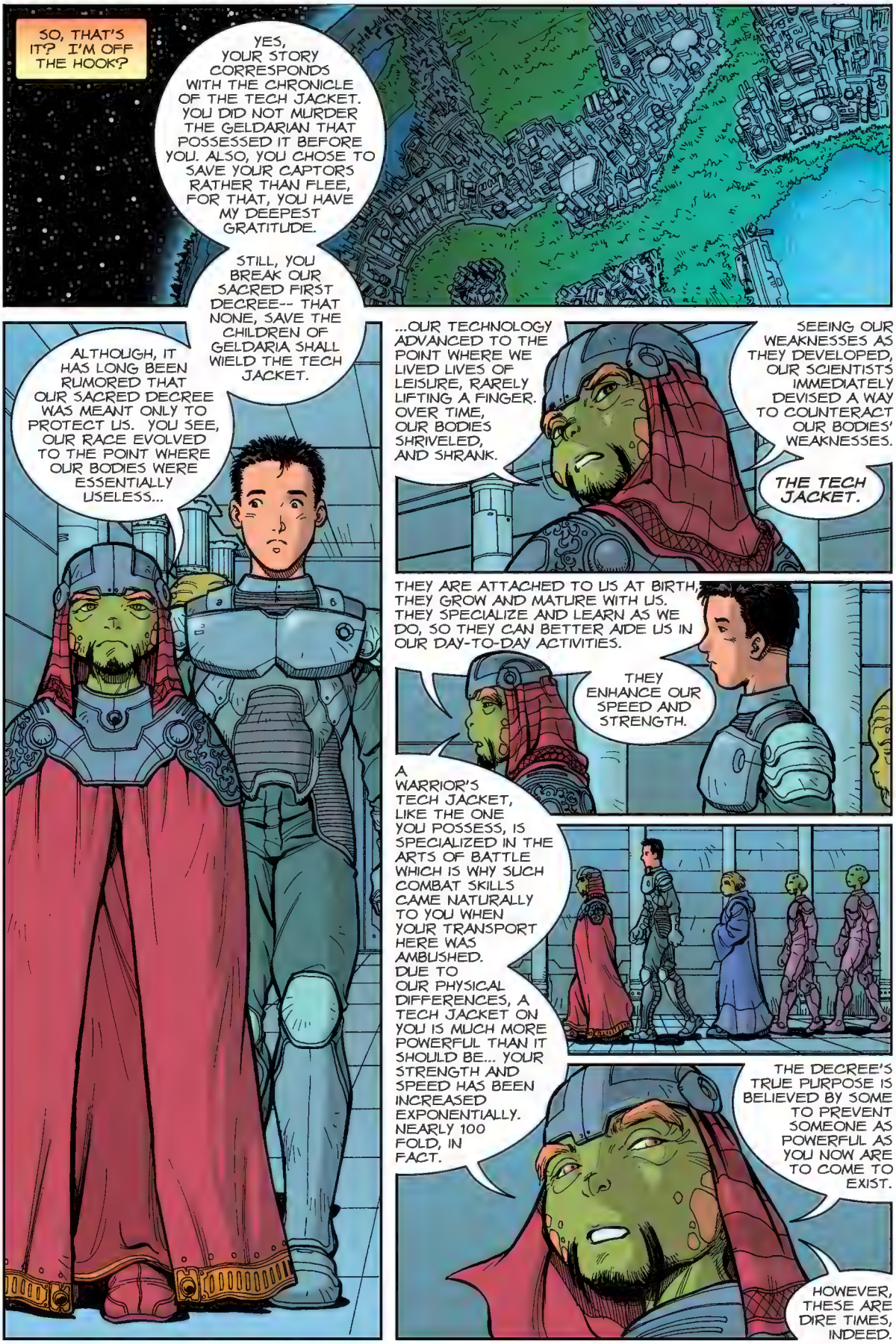

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH ME? WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
UNTIL THEN, YOU WILL REMAIN SILENT.
THE TIME FOR DECLARATION WILL COME AT YOUR TRIAL.
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SHIP?
HOLD YOUR TONGUE, VILLAIN.
WE ARE AMBUSHED BY A KRESH BATTLESHIP. YOU ARE TO BE TAXIED TO GELDARIA, WE ARE IN RANGE FOR SUCH A PROCEDURE.
TEK!
THIS WILL TAKE YOU THE REST OF THE WAY.
WE ARE IN BATTLE NOW. YOU ARE DUE FOR TRIAL SOON. WE CANNOT RISK YOUR DEMISE.
I CAN'T REALLY ARGUE WITH THAT.
YOU WILL ARRIVE ON GELDARIA SHORTLY.
WHOA!

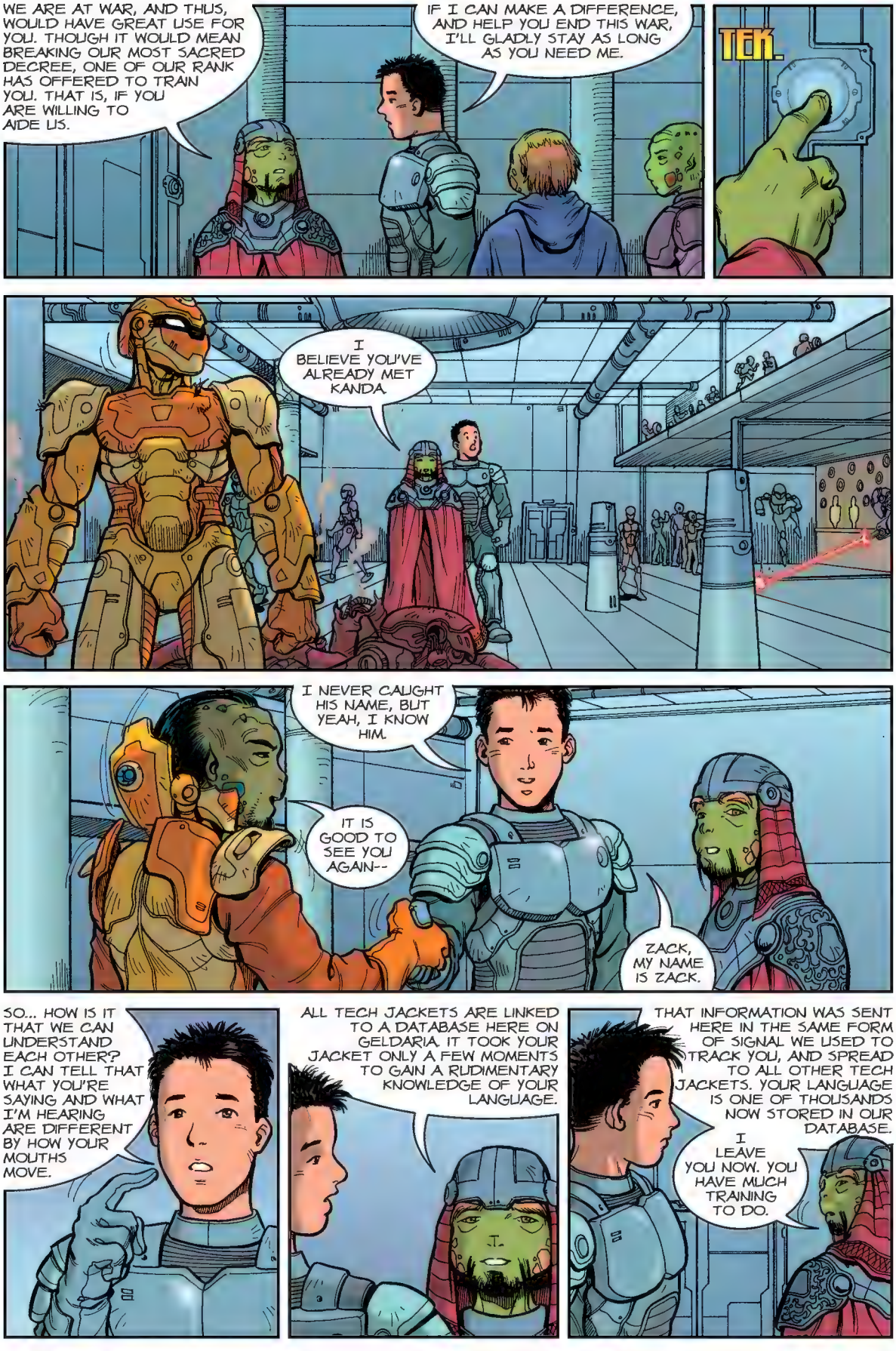
EEAAHH!!
GREAT, NOW I'M FREE TO--
CRAP.

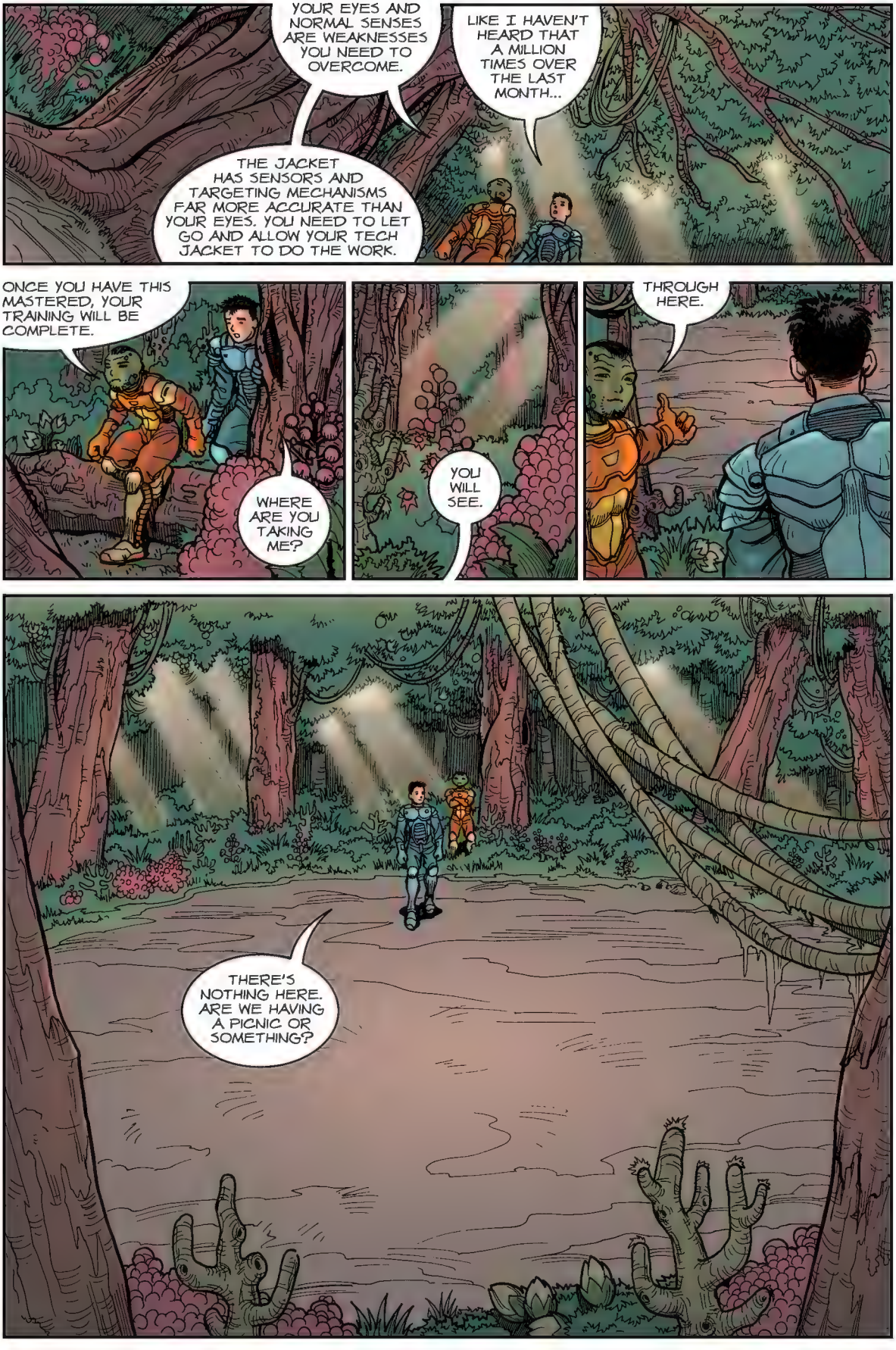
THEY'RE MY ONLY WAY HOME!

HOW DID I...?

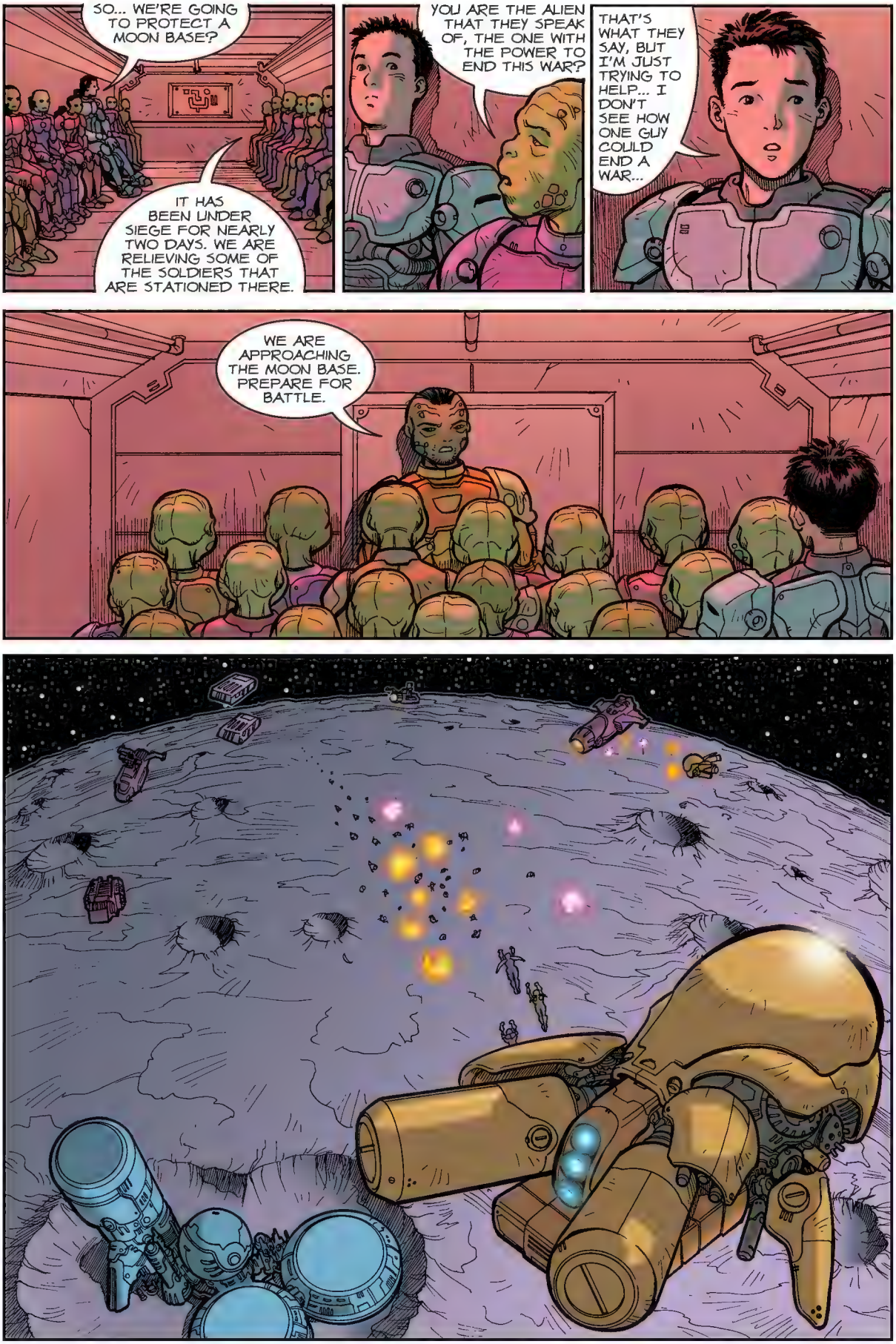

NO BEING SHOULD POSSESS SUCH STRENGTH...
AS CLOSE AS I CAN FIGURE IT... YOU'RE MY ONLY TICKET BACK TO EARTH.
I'M NOT IN A HURRY TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS TRIAL OF YOURS... BUT I'LL COME ALONG PEACEFULLY IF YOU CAN PROMISE THAT I WON'T BE HARMED. I JUST WANT TO GO HOME.
MUCH IS UNCLEAR TO ME NOW, THE OUTCOME OF YOUR TRIAL INCLUDED.
I WILL SPEAK ON YOUR BEHALF. I HAVE SEEN NOTHING BUT COURAGE AND VALOR FROM YOU. SURELY, YOU SAVED MY LIFE TODAY, AND THOSE OF MY SOLDIERS.
COME, WE HAVE MUCH TO DISCUSS ON THE WAY TO GELDARIA.

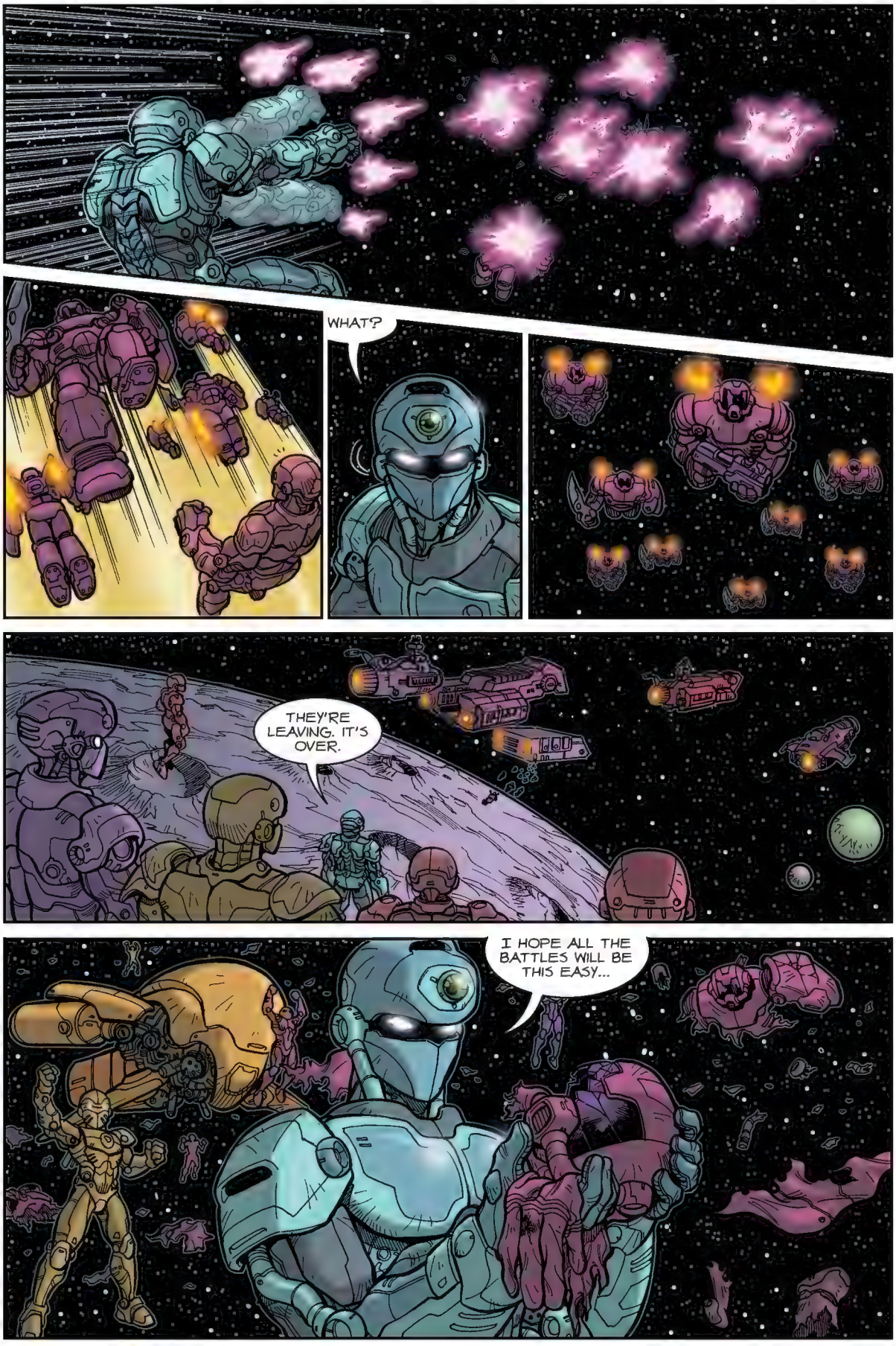

SO, THAT'S IT? I'M OFF THE HOOK?
YES, YOUR STORY CORRESPONDS WITH THE CHRONICLE OF THE TECH JACKET. YOU DID NOT MURDER THE GELDARIAN THAT POSSESSED IT BEFORE YOU. ALSO, YOU CHOSE TO SAVE YOUR CAPTORS RATHER THAN FLEE, FOR THAT, YOU HAVE MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE.
STILL, YOU BREAK OUR SACRED FIRST DECREE-- THAT NONE, SAVE THE CHILDREN OF GELDARIA SHALL WIELD THE TECH JACKET.
ALTHOUGH, IT HAS LONG BEEN RUMORED THAT OUR SACRED DECREE WAS MEANT ONLY TO PROTECT US. YOU SEE, OUR RACE EVOLVED TO THE POINT WHERE OUR BODIES WERE ESSENTIALLY USELESS...
...OUR TECHNOLOGY ADVANCED TO THE POINT WHERE WE LIVED LIVES OF LEISURE, RARELY LIFTING A FINGER. OVER TIME, OUR BODIES SHRIVELED, AND SHRANK.
SEEING OUR WEAKNESSES AS THEY DEVELOPED, OUR SCIENTISTS IMMEDIATELY DEVISED A WAY TO COUNTERACT OUR BODIES' WEAKNESSES.
THE TECH JACKET.
THEY ARE ATTACHED TO US AT BIRTH, THEY GROW AND MATURE WITH US. THEY SPECIALIZE AND LEARN AS WE DO, SO THEY CAN BETTER AIDE US IN OUR DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES.
THEY ENHANCE OUR SPEED AND STRENGTH.
A WARRIOR'S TECH JACKET, LIKE THE ONE YOU POSSESS, IS SPECIALIZED IN THE ARTS OF BATTLE WHICH IS WHY SUCH COMBAT SKILLS CAME NATURALLY TO YOU WHEN YOUR TRANSPORT HERE WAS AMBUSHED. DUE TO OUR PHYSICAL DIFFERENCES, A TECH JACKET ON YOU IS MUCH MORE POWERFUL THAN IT SHOULD BE... YOUR STRENGTH AND SPEED HAS BEEN INCREASED EXPONENTIALLY. NEARLY 100 FOLD, IN FACT.
THE DECREE'S TRUE PURPOSE IS BELIEVED BY SOME TO PREVENT SOMEONE AS POWERFUL AS YOU NOW ARE TO COME TO EXIST.
HOWEVER, THESE ARE DIRE TIMES, INDEED.

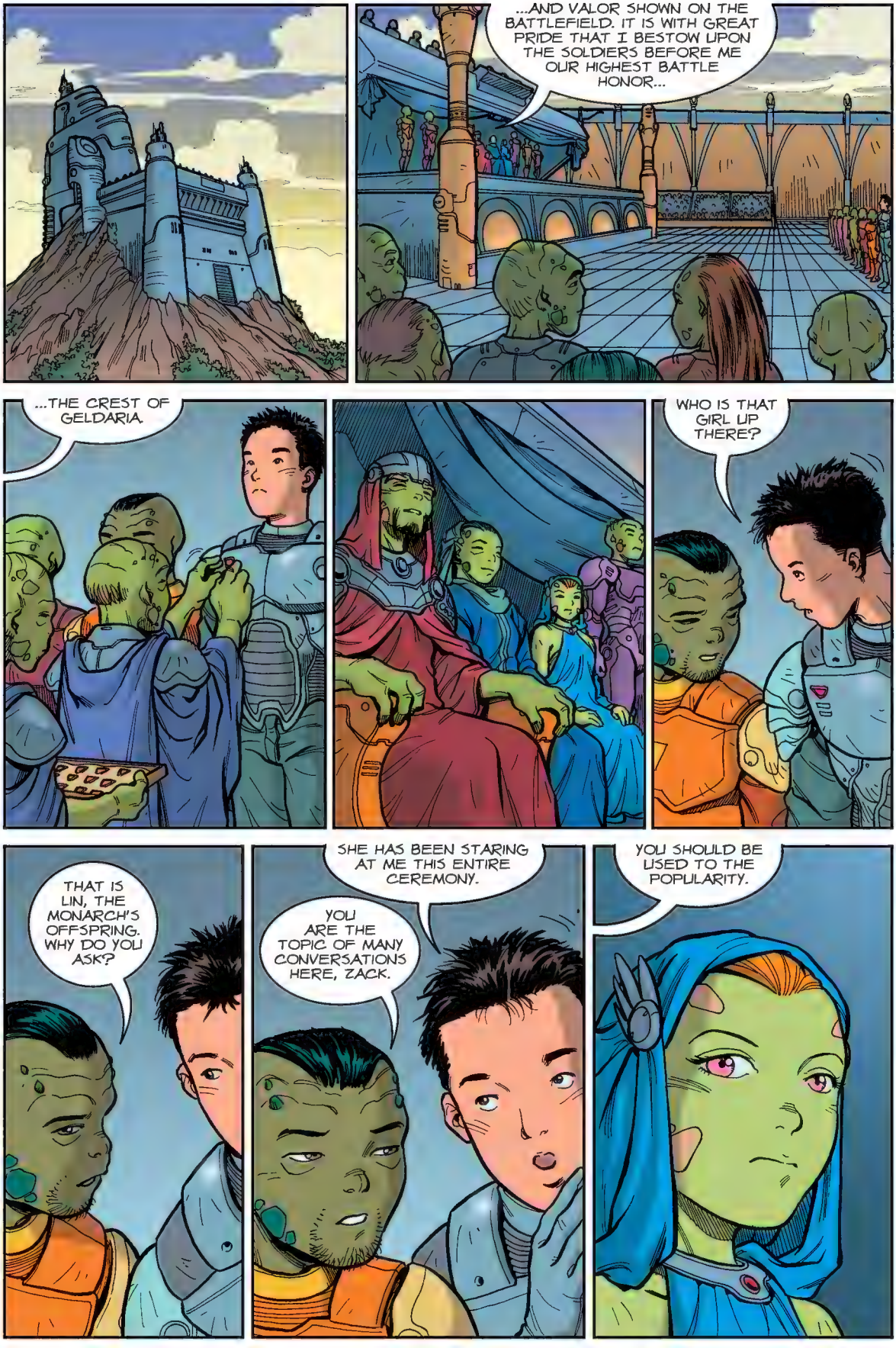

WE ARE AT WAR, AND THUS, WOULD HAVE GREAT USE FOR YOU. THOUGH IT WOULD MEAN BREAKING OUR MOST SACRED DECREE, ONE OF OUR RANK HAS OFFERED TO TRAIN YOU. THAT IS, IF YOU ARE WILLING TO AIDE US.
IF I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE, AND HELP YOU END THIS WAR, I'LL GLADLY STAY AS LONG AS YOU NEED ME.
TEK.
I BELIEVE YOU'VE ALREADY MET KANDA.
I NEVER CAUGHT HIS NAME, BUT YEAH, I KNOW HIM.
IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN--
ZACK, MY NAME IS ZACK.
SO... HOW IS IT THAT WE CAN UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER? I CAN TELL THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING AND WHAT I'M HEARING ARE DIFFERENT BY HOW YOUR MOUTHS MOVE.
ALL TECH JACKETS ARE LINKED TO A DATABASE HERE ON GELDARIA. IT TOOK YOUR JACKET ONLY A FEW MOMENTS TO GAIN A RUDIMENTARY KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR LANGUAGE.
THAT INFORMATION WAS SENT HERE IN THE SAME FORM OF SIGNAL WE USED TO TRACK YOU, AND SPREAD TO ALL OTHER TECH JACKETS. YOUR LANGUAGE IS ONE OF THOUSANDS NOW STORED IN OUR DATABASE.
I LEAVE YOU NOW. YOU HAVE MUCH TRAINING TO DO.

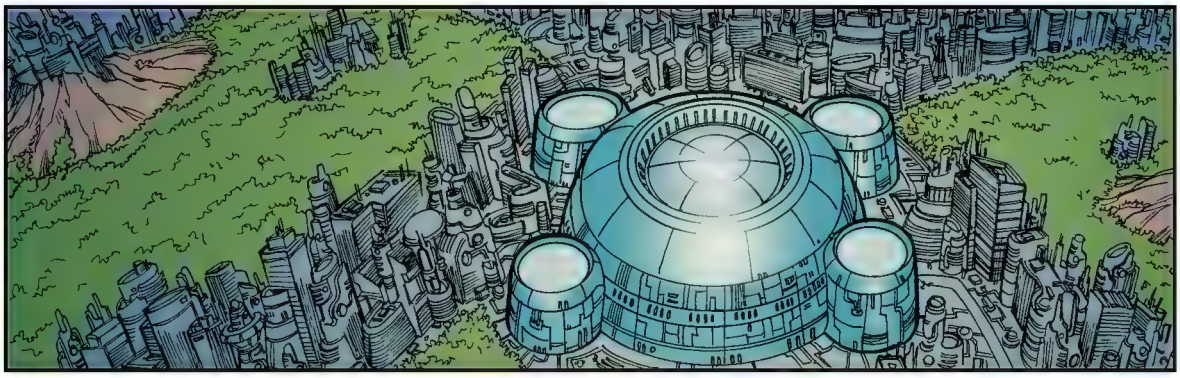

YOUR EYES AND NORMAL SENSES ARE WEAKNESSES YOU NEED TO OVERCOME.
LIKE I HAVEN'T HEARD THAT A MILLION TIMES OVER THE LAST MONTH...
THE JACKET HAS SENSORS AND TARGETING MECHANISMS FAR MORE ACCURATE THAN YOUR EYES. YOU NEED TO LET GO AND ALLOW YOUR TECH JACKET TO DO THE WORK.
ONCE YOU HAVE THIS MASTERED, YOUR TRAINING WILL BE COMPLETE.
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
YOU WILL SEE.
THROUGH HERE.
THERE'S NOTHING HERE. ARE WE HAVING A PICNIC OR SOMETHING?

NOT EXACTLY.
IF YOU LOOK, YOU'LL NOTICE SMALL TARGETS TO THE SIDE OF EACH GUN. THAT IS WHAT YOU MUST SHOOT. LET GO OF YOUR SENSES.
APPROXIMATE YOUR BLASTS AND LET YOUR JACKET DO THE REST... THAT IS YOUR ONLY WAY OUT OF THIS.
THE BLASTS ARE NOT LETHAL, BUT THEY ARE QUITE PAINFUL. TO SAVE YOU TIME, I SHOULD GO AHEAD AND TELL YOU THAT THE GUNS ARE SHIELDED ENOUGH THAT YOUR BLASTS WILL NOT STOP THEM.
ACK!
OKAY.
VZAP!
PING!
VZAP!
PING!
VZAP!
PING!
VZAP!
PING!
=HUFF=
=HUFF=
=HUFF=
I THINK YOU ARE READY.


SO... WE'RE GOING TO PROTECT A MOON BASE?
IT HAS BEEN UNDER SIEGE FOR NEARLY TWO DAYS. WE ARE RELIEVING SOME OF THE SOLDIERS THAT ARE STATIONED THERE.
YOU ARE THE ALIEN THAT THEY SPEAK OF, THE ONE WITH THE POWER TO END THIS WAR?
THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY, BUT I'M JUST TRYING TO HELP... I DON'T SEE HOW ONE GUY COULD END A WAR...
WE ARE APPROACHING THE MOON BASE. PREPARE FOR BATTLE.

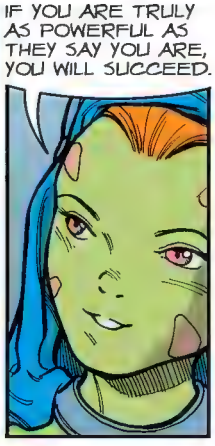

WHAT?
THEY'RE LEAVING. IT'S OVER.
I HOPE ALL THE BATTLES WILL BE THIS EASY...

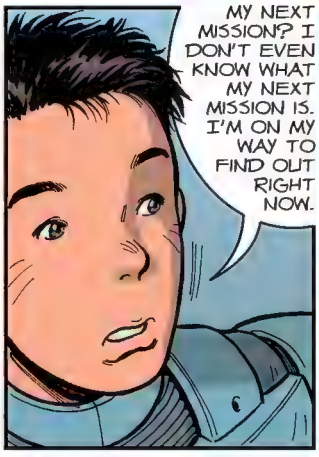

...AND VALOR SHOWN ON THE BATTLEFIELD. IT IS WITH GREAT PRIDE THAT I BESTOW UPON THE SOLDIERS BEFORE ME OUR HIGHEST BATTLE HONOR...
...THE CREST OF GELDARIA.
WHO IS THAT GIRL UP THERE?
THAT IS LIN, THE MONARCH'S OFFSPRING. WHY DO YOU ASK?
YOU ARE THE TOPIC OF MANY CONVERSATIONS HERE, ZACK.
SHE HAS BEEN STARING AT ME THIS ENTIRE CEREMONY.
YOU SHOULD BE USED TO THE POPULARITY.

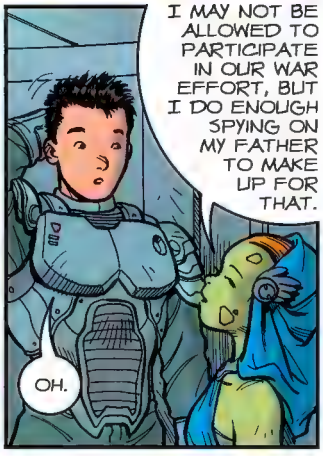


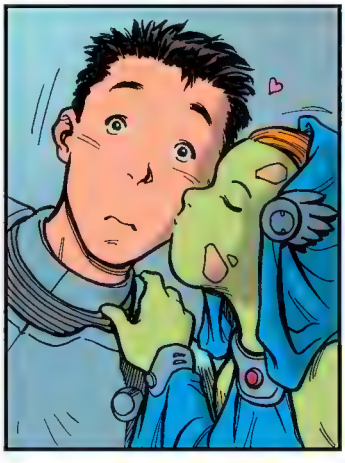
ZACK. PLEASE, SLOW DOWN.

OH, HI. LIN, RIGHT?
YES. I JUST WANTED TO WISH YOU LUCK ON YOUR NEXT MISSION.

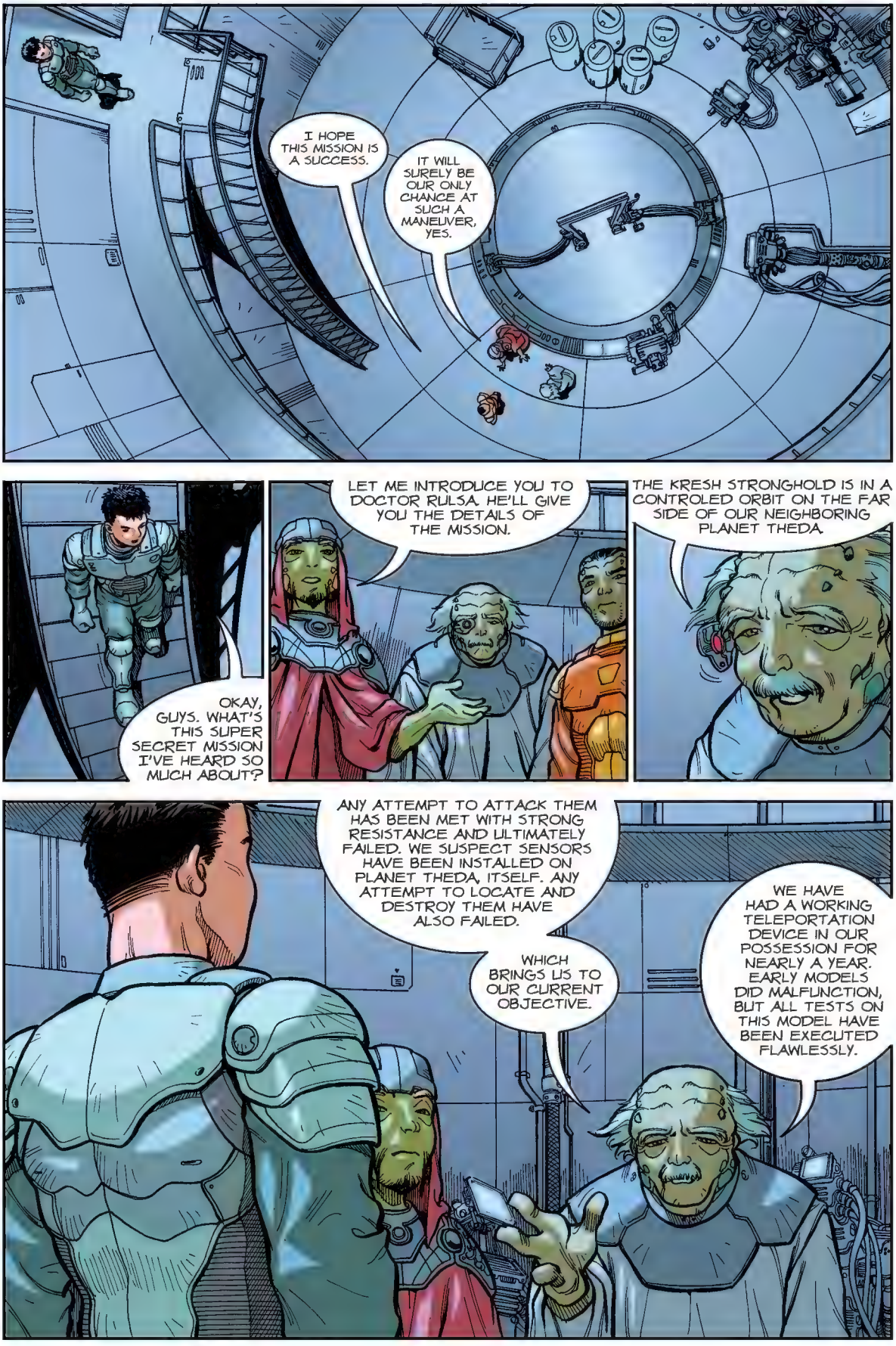

IF YOU ARE TRULY AS POWERFUL AS THEY SAY YOU ARE, YOU WILL SUCCEED.


MY NEXT MISSION? I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT MY NEXT MISSION IS. I'M ON MY WAY TO FIND OUT RIGHT NOW.


I MAY NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR WAR EFFORT, BUT I DO ENOUGH SPYING ON MY FATHER TO MAKE UP FOR THAT.
OH.

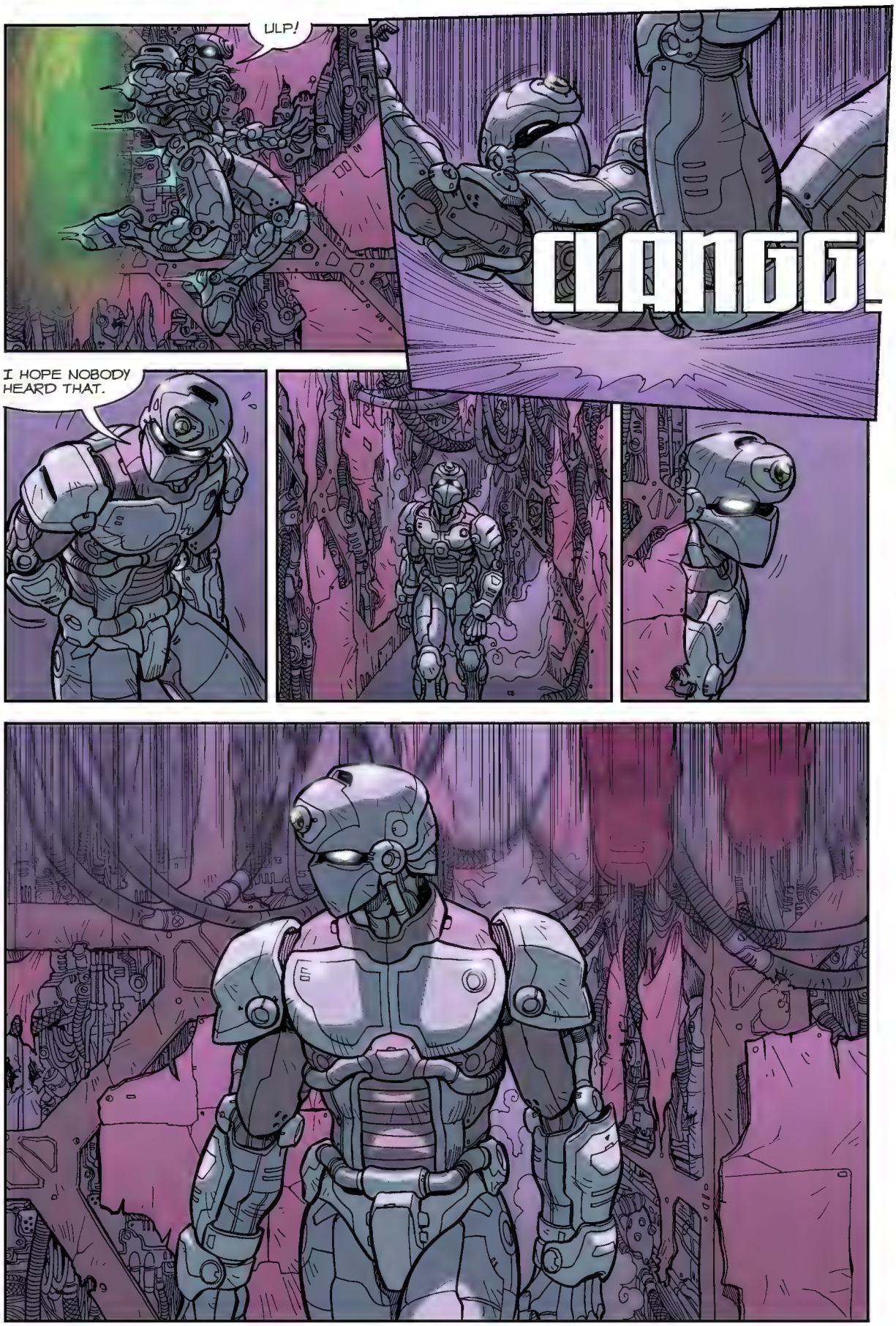


GOOD LUCK.


I HOPE THIS MISSION IS A SUCCESS.
IT WILL SURELY BE OUR ONLY CHANCE AT SUCH A MANEUVER, YES.
OKAY, GUYS. WHAT'S THIS SUPER SECRET MISSION I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT?
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO DOCTOR RULSA. HE'LL GIVE YOU THE DETAILS OF THE MISSION.
THE KRESH STRONGHOLD IS IN A CONTROLED ORBIT ON THE FAR SIDE OF OUR NEIGHBORING PLANET THEDA.
ANY ATTEMPT TO ATTACK THEM HAS BEEN MET WITH STRONG RESISTANCE AND ULTIMATELY FAILED. WE SUSPECT SENSORS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED ON PLANET THEDA, ITSELF. ANY ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND DESTROY THEM HAVE ALSO FAILED.
WHICH BRINGS US TO OUR CURRENT OBJECTIVE.
WE HAVE HAD A WORKING TELEPORTATION DEVICE IN OUR POSSESSION FOR NEARLY A YEAR. EARLY MODELS DID MALFUNCTION, BUT ALL TESTS ON THIS MODEL HAVE BEEN EXECUTED FLAWLESSLY.

THE ONLY PROBLEM IS... WITHOUT A MIRROR UNIT IN PLACE AT THE DESIRED DESTINATION, IT'S ONLY A ONE-WAY TELEPORTER.
WHAT HE IS SAYING IS THAT WE HAVE A WAY TO GET INTO THE KRESH STRONGHOLD UNDETECTED, BUT ANY SOLDIERS TELEPORTING IN WOULD HAVE NO WAY OF ESCAPING.
YES, AND THAT WOULD MEAN DEATH FOR ANY GELDARIAN THAT TELEPOTED IN. WE HAD NO WAY TO USE THIS TELEPORTATION TO OUR ADVANTAGE... UNTIL YOU CAME.
YES, YOU HAVE PROVEN BATTLE AFTER BATTLE THAT THERE IS LITTLE YOU CANNOT DO. WE COULD EASILY TELEPORT YOU INTO THE BASE.
YOU COULD MOVE THROUGH THEIR STRONGHOLD AT LIGHTNING SPEED CAUSING AS MUCH DAMAGE AS POSSIBLE. YOU COULD ATTEMPT TO LOCATE ANY AND ALL DEFENSES OF THE BASE, AND DESTROY THEM. IF WE MONITORED YOUR TECH JACKET'S WHEREABOUTS, WE WOULD KNOW THE EXACT SECOND YOU LEFT THE BASE. THAT COULD BE OUR QUE TO BRING OUR ARMY WITHIN RANGE TO DESTROY WHAT IS LEFT OF THE BASE.
THE MISSION IS IN THE FINAL STAGES OF PREPARATION. WE COULD EXECUTE IT AS SOON AS TOMORROW.
TOMORROW'S GOOD.

YOU ARE EARLY.
I KINDA WANT TO GET THIS OVER WITH.
JUST A FEW MINOR ADJUSTMENTS AND WE'LL BE READY.
THERE.
ALL IS OPERATIONAL.
EVERYTHING IS IN PLACE. YOU MAY PROCEED AT WILL.
HERE GOES NOTHING.


ULP!
CLANG
I HOPE NOBODY HEARD THAT.

OH, CRAP.

KIRKMAN • SU • RILEY
TECHJACKET
image
4
FEB
IMAGECOMICS.COM

image® COMICS PRESENTS

TECH JACKET™

CO-CREATOR, WRITER, LETTERER:
ROBERT KIRKMAN

CO-CREATOR, PENCILER, INKER:
E.J. SU

COLORIST:
RON RILEY

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
EDWARD "TED" RILEY
1930-2002

FUNK-O-TRON
WWW.FUNKOTRON.COM

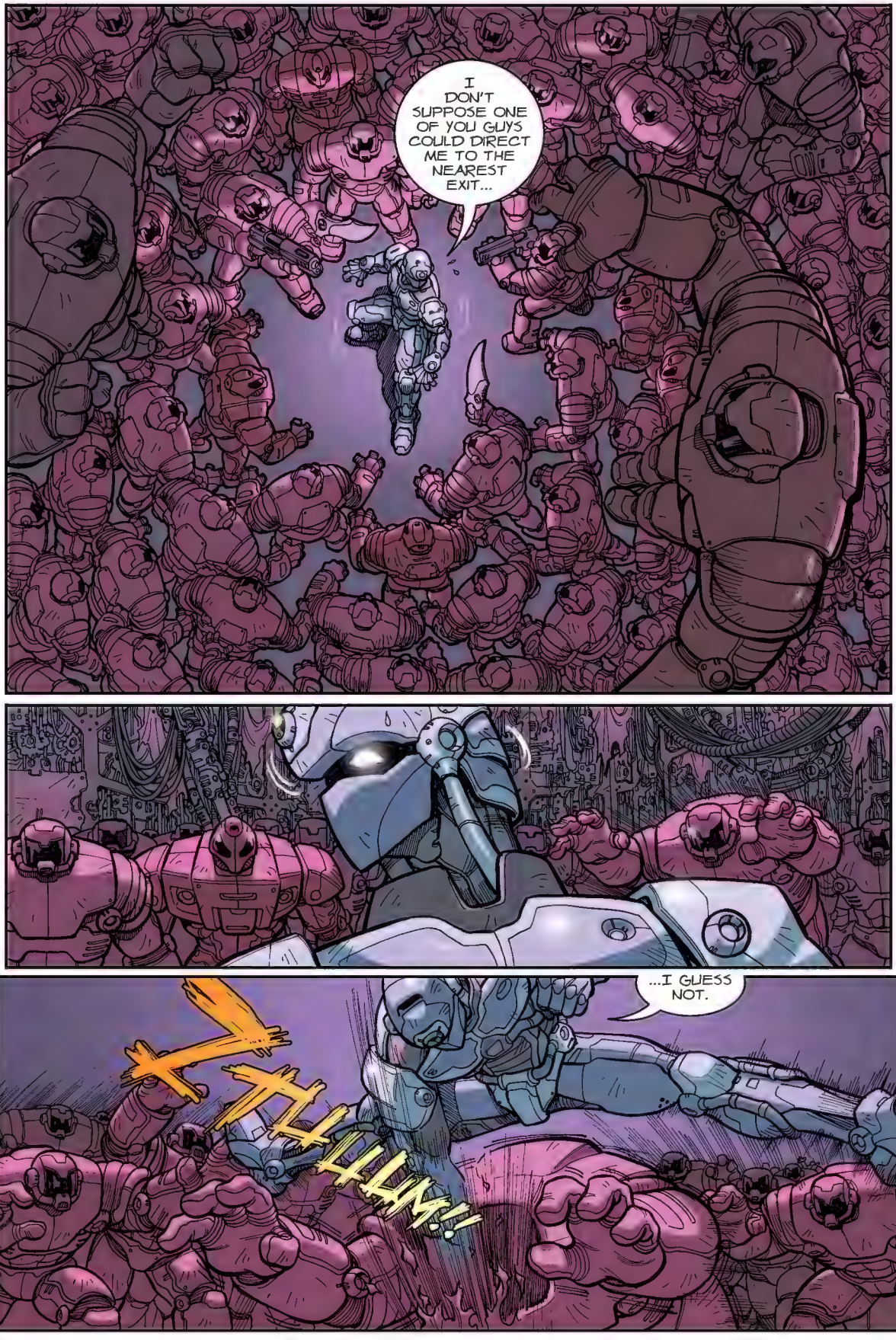
FOR IMAGE COMICS

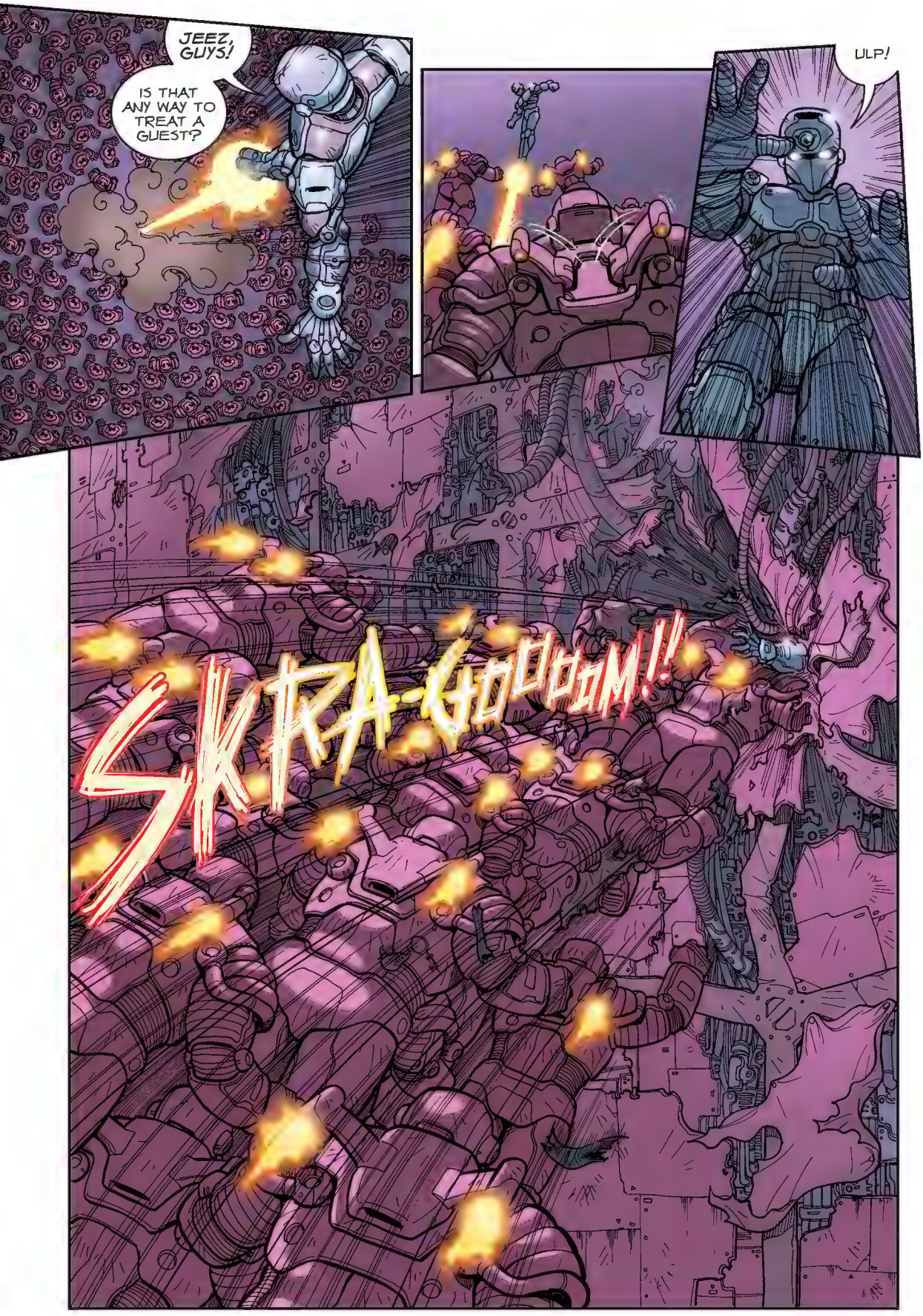
JIM VALENTINO *PUBLISHER*	BRENT BRAUN *DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION*	ERIC STEPHENSON *DIRECTOR OF MARKETING*	TRACI HALE *CONTROLLER/FOREIGN LICENSING*
BRETT EVANS *ART DIRECTOR*	ALLEN HUI *WEB DEVELOPER*	CINDIE ESPINOZA *ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT*	PETER MASON HAUGE *TRAFFIC*

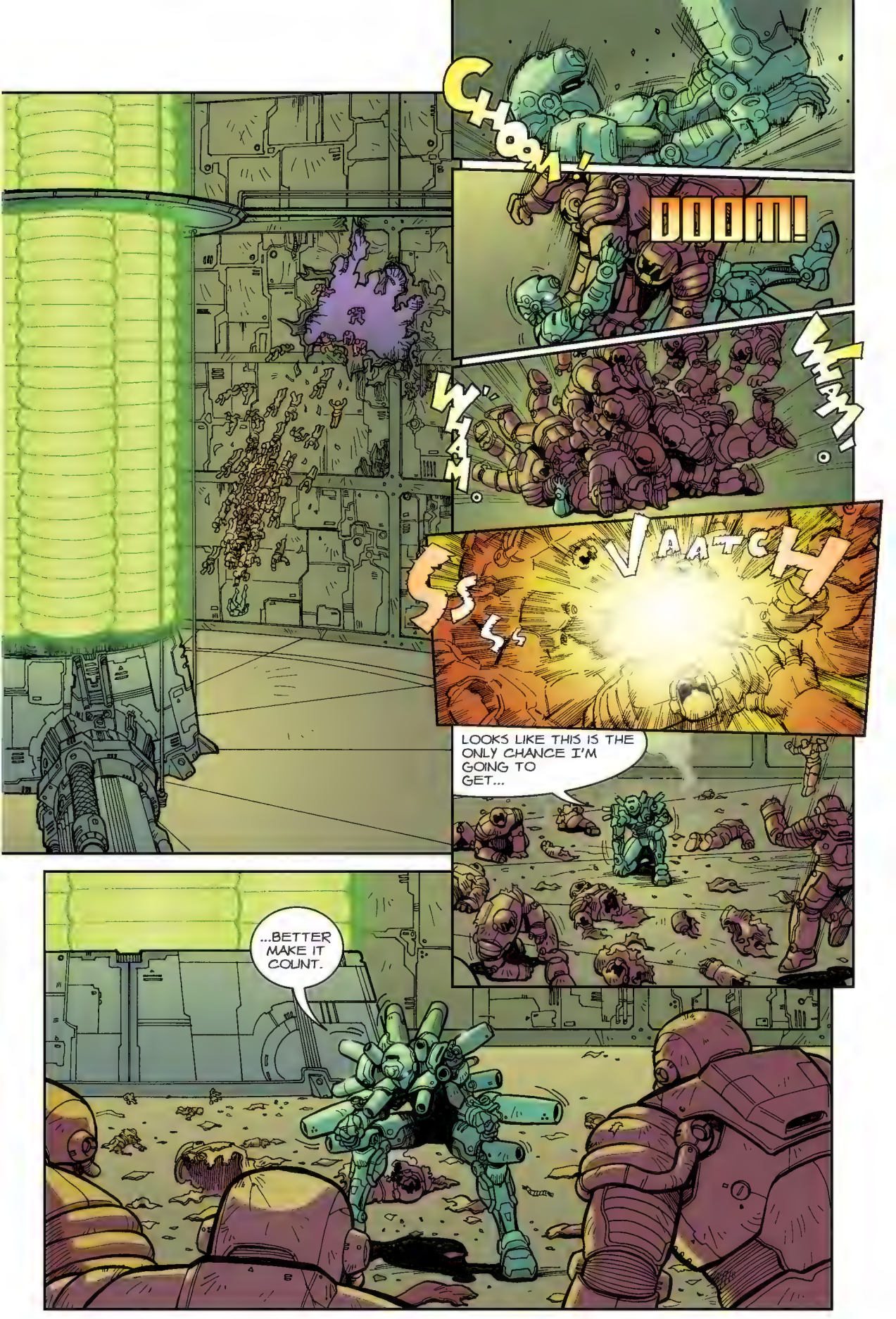
WWW.IMAGECOMICS.COM

TECH JACKET VOL. 1 #4. JANUARY, 2003. FIRST PRINTING. An Image Comics Group title published by Image Comics 1071 N. Batavia St. Ste A, Orange, CA 92867.

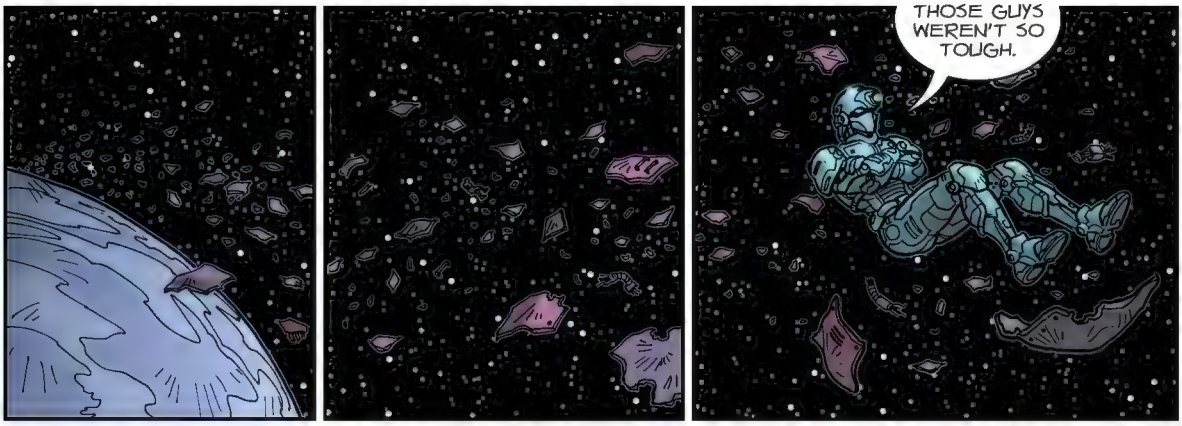
Image and it's logo are ™ and © Image Comics, Inc. 2003. All right reserved. TECH JACKET is ™ and © Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su, 2003. All rights reserved. Any similarities to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su. Publisher and creators assume no responsibility for unsolicited materi-

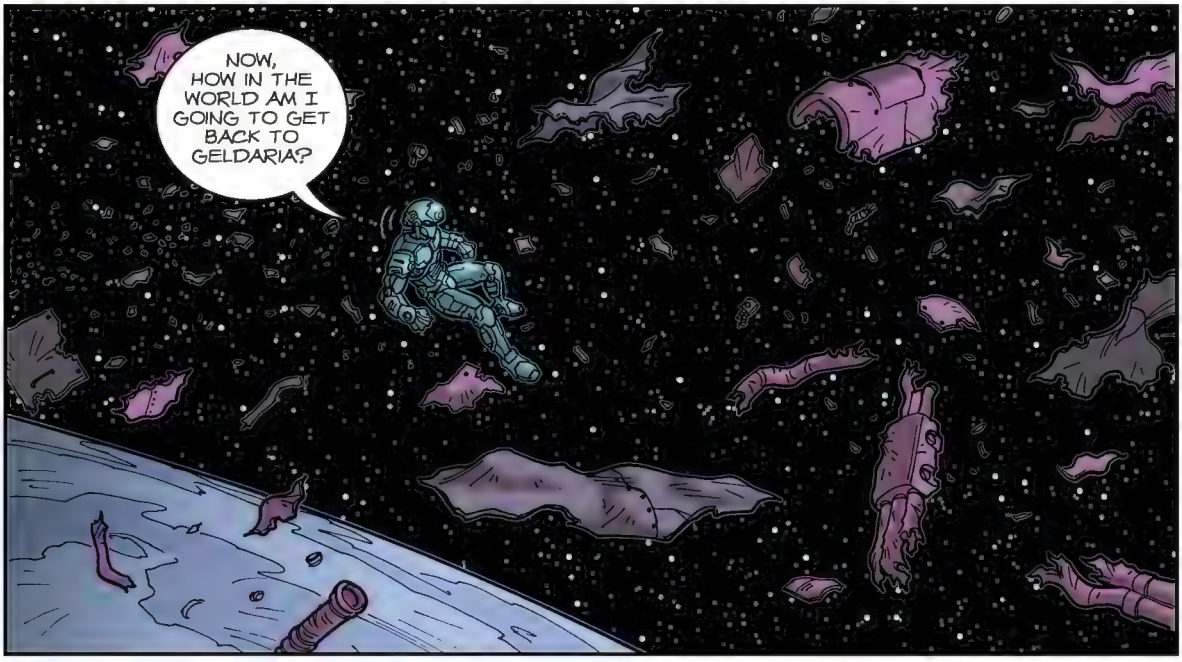

I DON'T SUPPOSE ONE OF YOU GUYS COULD DIRECT ME TO THE NEAREST EXIT...
...I GUESS NOT.
THUM!

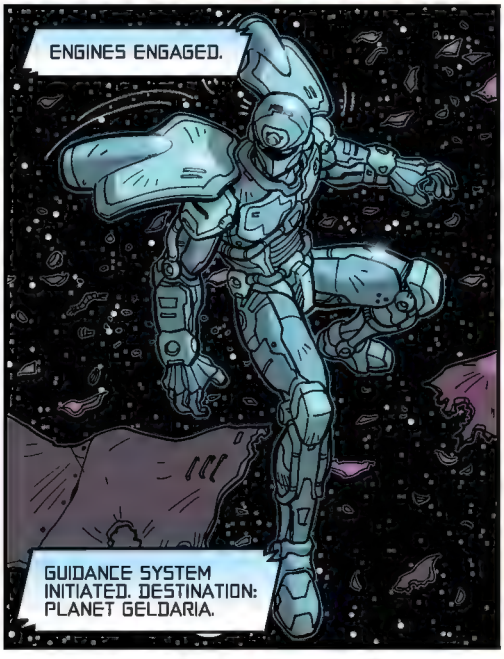

JEEZ, GUYS!
IS THAT ANY WAY TO TREAT A GUEST?
ULP!
SKRA-GOOOOM!!


CHOOM!
DOOM!
WHAM!
WHAM!
VAA-TCH
LOOKS LIKE THIS IS THE ONLY CHANCE I'M GOING TO GET...
...BETTER MAKE IT COUNT.

ZZzzz
ARCH!
CHOOM!
BRAKKA-BA-DOOM!

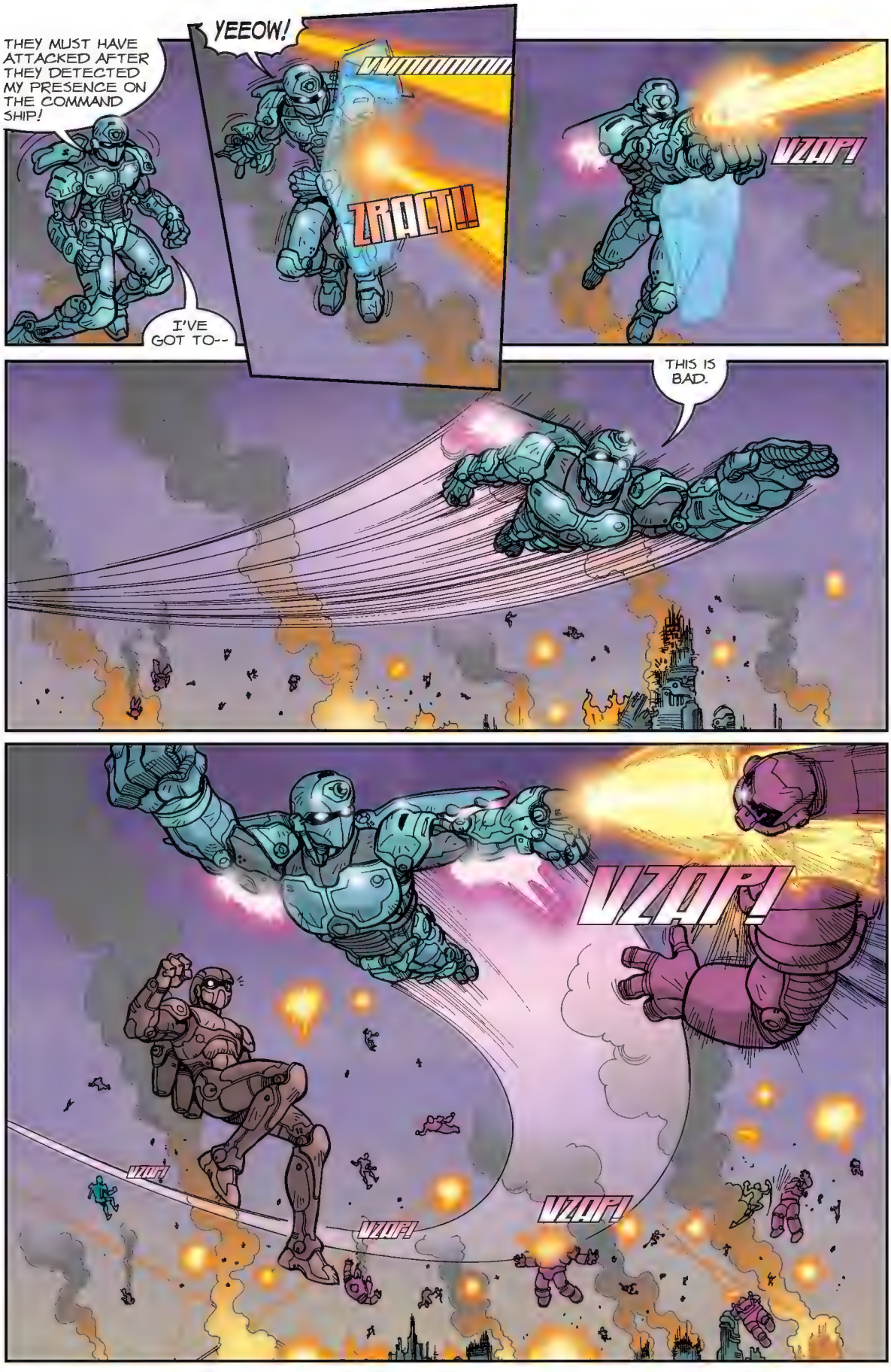

THOSE GUYS WEREN'T SO TOUGH.

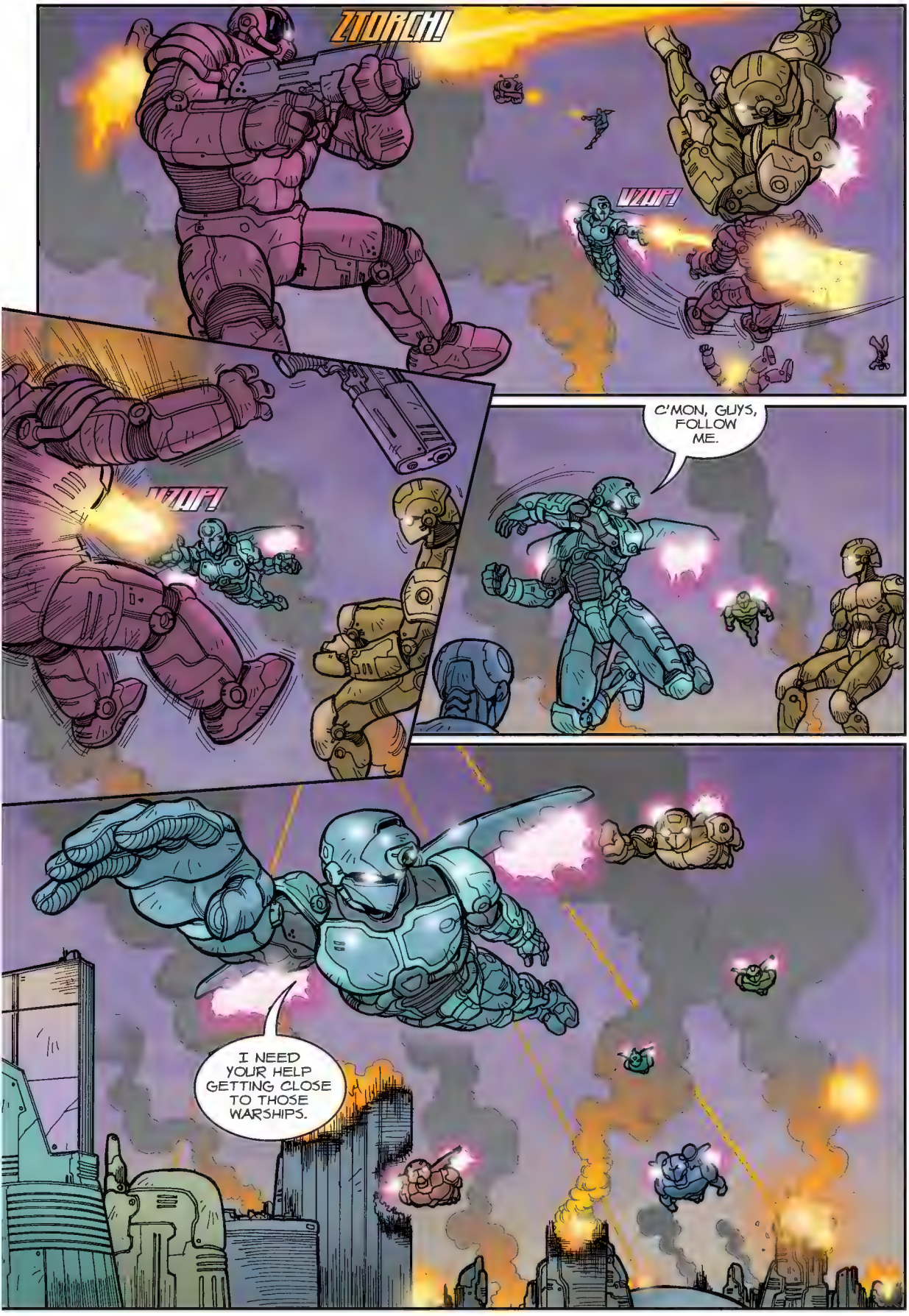

NOW, HOW IN THE WORLD AM I GOING TO GET BACK TO GELDARIA?

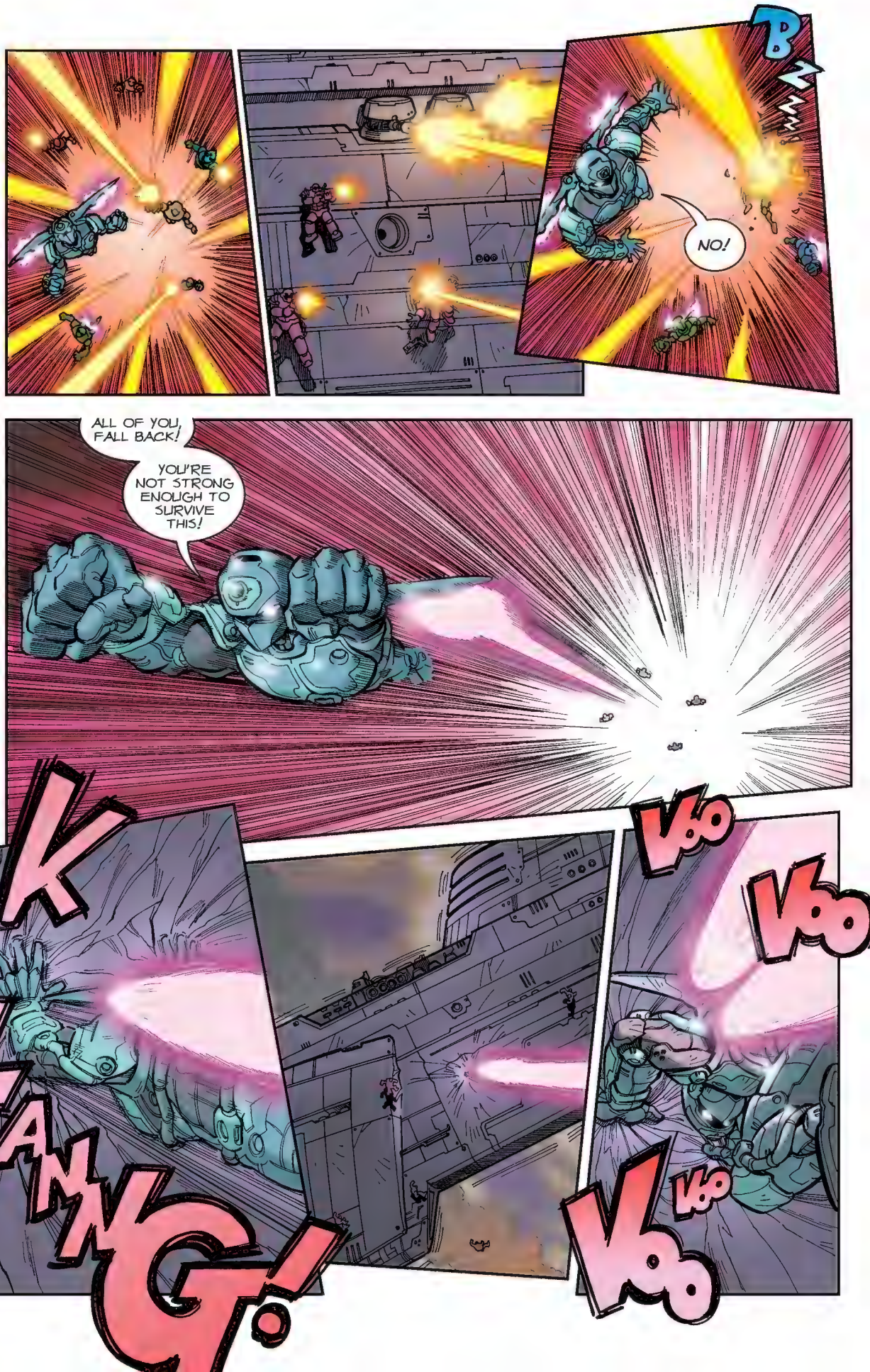

ENGINES ENGAGED.
GUIDANCE SYSTEM INITIATED. DESTINATION: PLANET GELDARIA.

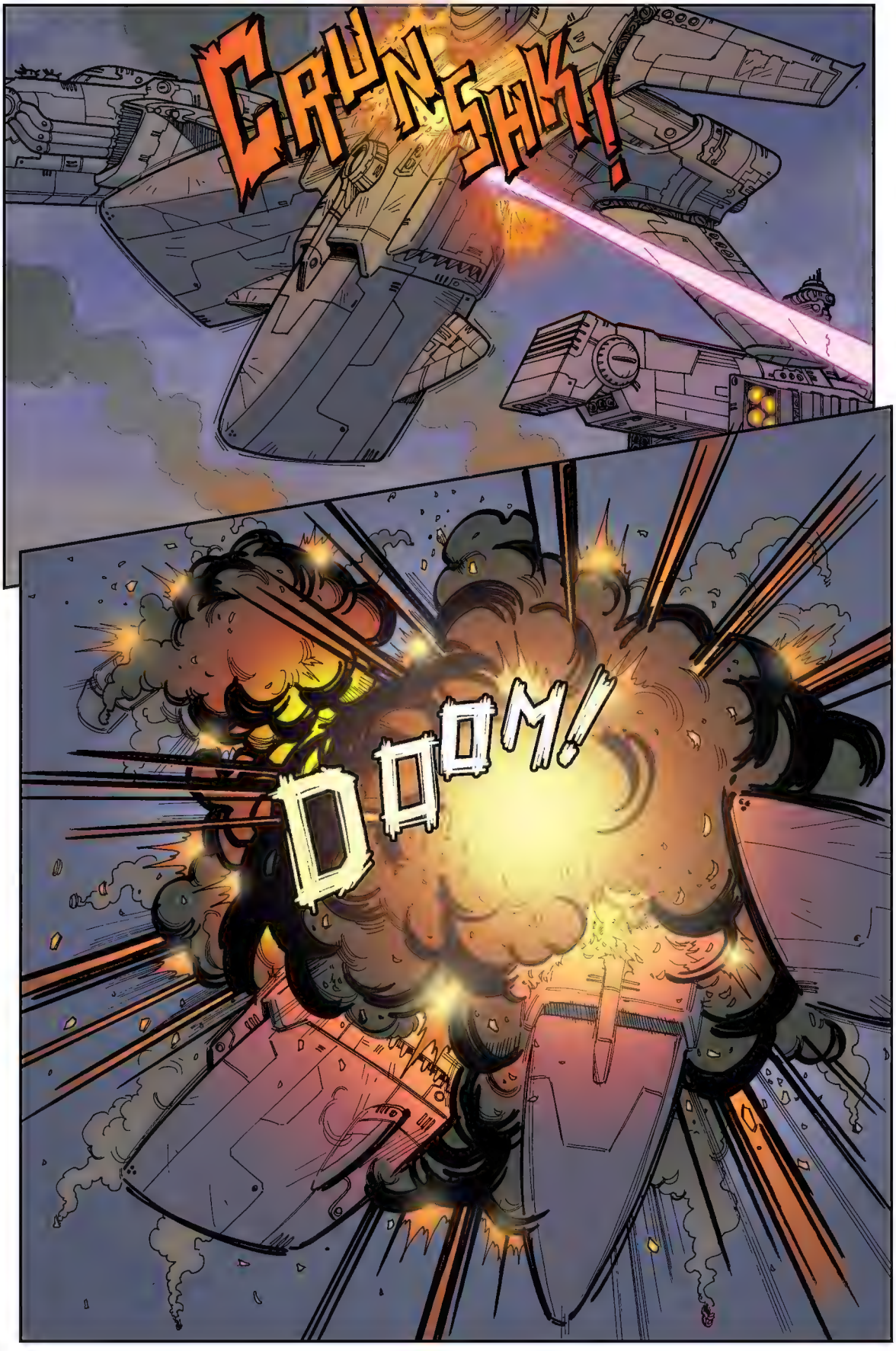
THIS IS CONVENIENT.

OH MY GOD.

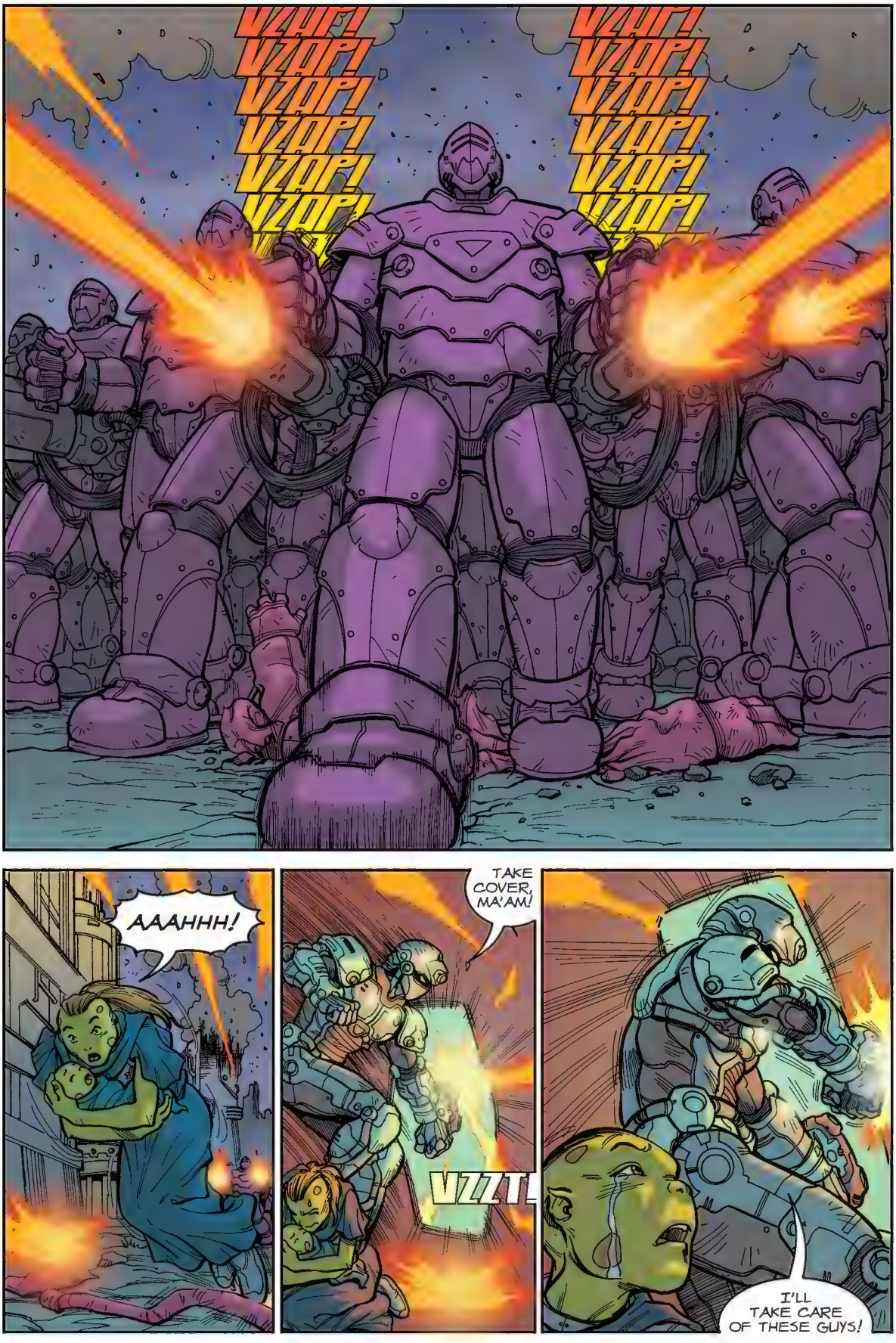

THEY MUST HAVE ATTACKED AFTER THEY DETECTED MY PRESENCE ON THE COMMAND SHIP!
I'VE GOT TO--
YEEOW!
ZRACT!!
VZAP!
THIS IS BAD.
VZAP!
VZAP!
VZAP!
VZAP!

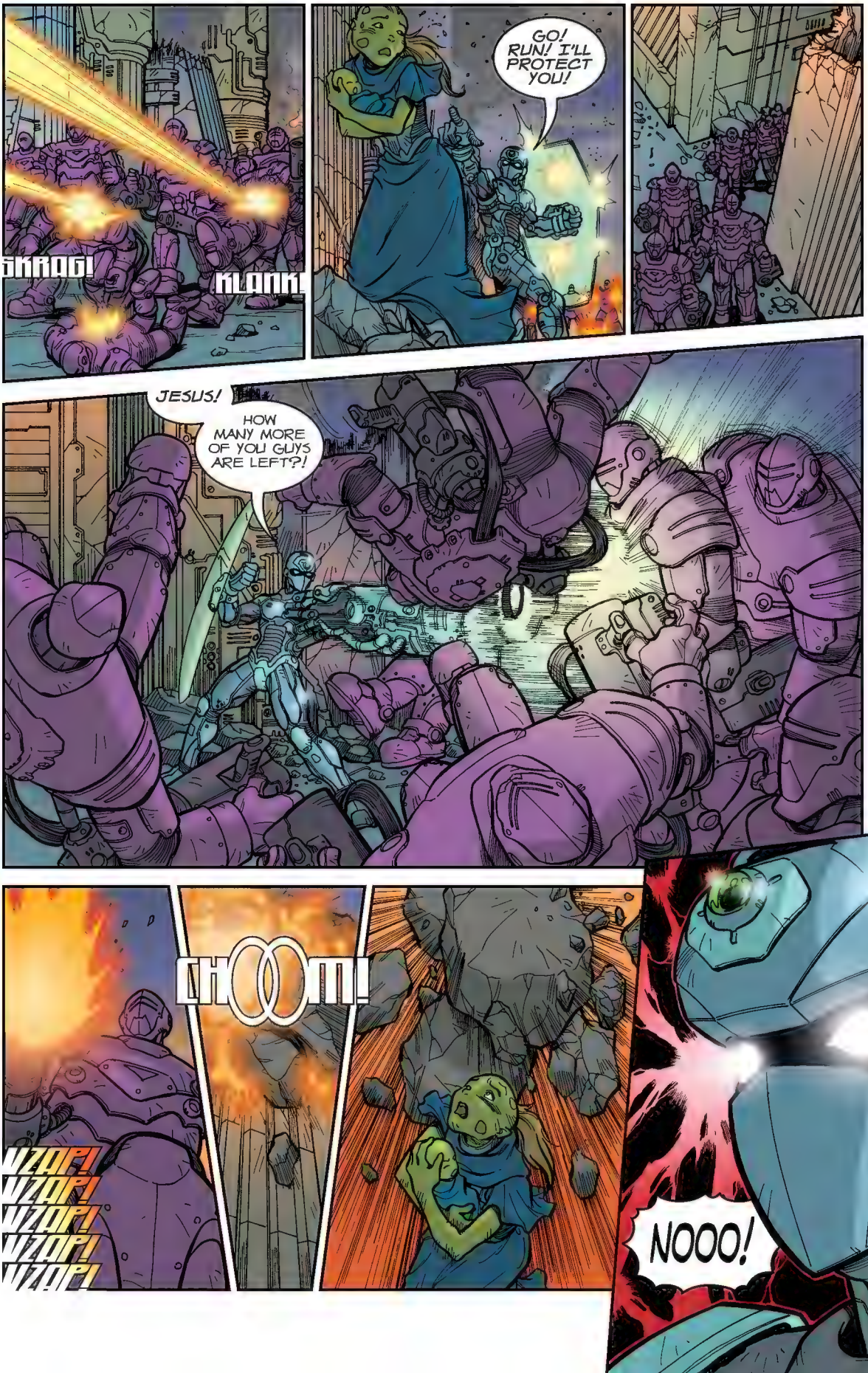

ZTORCH!
VZOP!
VZOP!
C'MON, GUYS, FOLLOW ME.
I NEED YOUR HELP GETTING CLOSE TO THOSE WARSHIPS.


BZZZ
NO!
ALL OF YOU, FALL BACK!
YOU'RE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO SURVIVE THIS!
KLANG!
VOO
VOO
VOO


CRUNCH!
DOOM!

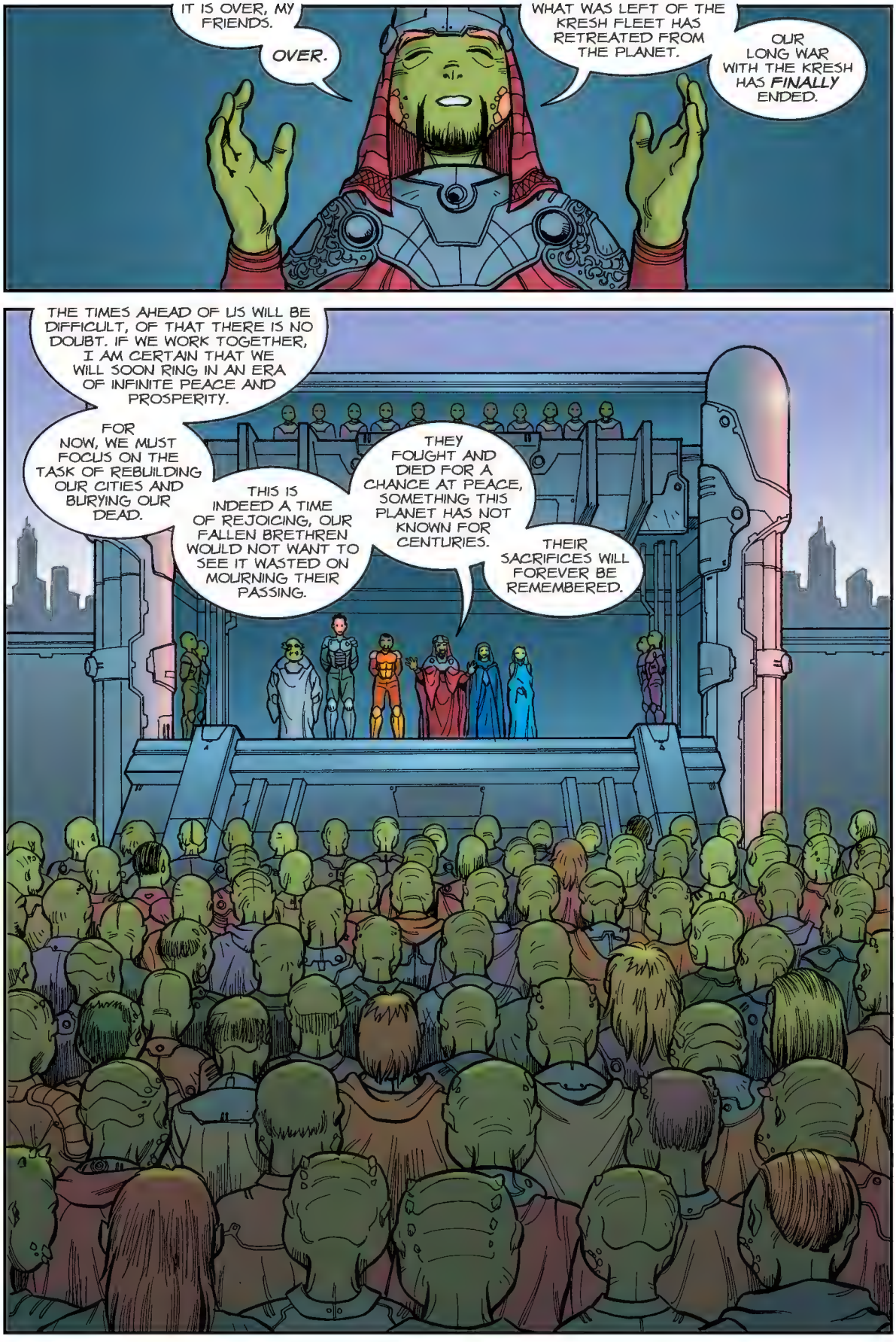
HOLD TIGHT, MAN!
BOOM!


VZAP!
VZAP!
VZAP!
VZAP!
VZAP!
VZAP!
VZAP!
VZAP!
VZAP!
VZAP!
VZAP!
VZAP!
AAAHHH!
TAKE COVER, MA'AM!
VZZT!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THESE GUYS!


SKRAG!
KLANK!
GO! RUN! I'LL PROTECT YOU!
JESUS!
HOW MANY MORE OF YOU GUYS ARE LEFT?!
KHOOM!
WZOP!
WZOP!
WZOP!
WZOP!
WZOP!
NOOO!

MONSTERS!
POW!
KRAK!
DOOM!
CLANG!

KLANG!
KLANG!
KLANG!
KLANG!
KLANG!
KLANG!
ZACK...
...IT'S OVER.


IT IS OVER, MY FRIENDS.
OVER.
WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE KRESH FLEET HAS RETREATED FROM THE PLANET.
OUR LONG WAR WITH THE KRESH HAS FINALLY ENDED.
THE TIMES AHEAD OF US WILL BE DIFFICULT, OF THAT THERE IS NO DOUBT. IF WE WORK TOGETHER, I AM CERTAIN THAT WE WILL SOON RING IN AN ERA OF INFINITE PEACE AND PROSPERITY.
FOR NOW, WE MUST FOCUS ON THE TASK OF REBUILDING OUR CITIES AND BURYING OUR DEAD.
THIS IS INDEED A TIME OF REJOICING, OUR FALLEN BRETHREN WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE IT WASTED ON MOURNING THEIR PASSING.
THEY FOUGHT AND DIED FOR A CHANCE AT PEACE, SOMETHING THIS PLANET HAS NOT KNOWN FOR CENTURIES.
THEIR SACRIFICES WILL FOREVER BE REMEMBERED.

REALLY? I GET TO KEEP IT?

YES. THE PROCESS OF REMOVING A TECH JACKET IS ONE SO PAINFUL THAT IT'S DOUBTFUL THAT EVEN YOU WOULD SURVIVE. ALSO, YOU ABOVE ALL OTHERS HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT TO POSSESS A TECH JACKET.
IF NOT FOR YOU, OUR WAR WITH THE KRESH MAY NOT HAVE ENDED IN OUR FAVOR OR EVEN COME TO AN END AT ALL. BUT IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THE BURDEN OF YOUR POWER.
YOU'LL BE IN POSSESSION OF A WEAPON FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY OTHER ON YOUR PLANET.

USE YOUR POWER WISELY, AND NEVER FOR ILL GAINS.

YOU CAN TRUST ME.

OF THAT I HAVE NO DOUBT. WE HAVE ARRANGED FOR YOUR TRANSPORT, YOU HAVE BEEN AWAY FROM YOUR HOME WORLD FOR TOO LONG. KANDA WILL BE RETURNING YOU IMMEDIATELY.

IMMEDIATELY?
BUT WHAT ABOUT REBUILDING THE CITY?

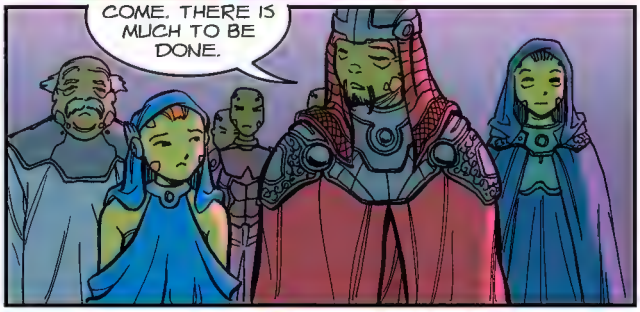
NO. YOU HAVE DONE MORE THAN YOUR SHARE. YOUR PLACE IS NOT HERE. WE CANNOT KEEP YOU ANY LONGER.

I CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT. IT'D BE NICE TO SEE MY PARENTS AGAIN.

IF YOU EVER NEED ANYTHING, YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME.

FAREWELL, BRAVE ONE.

HE WILL BE MISSED.


COME. THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE.

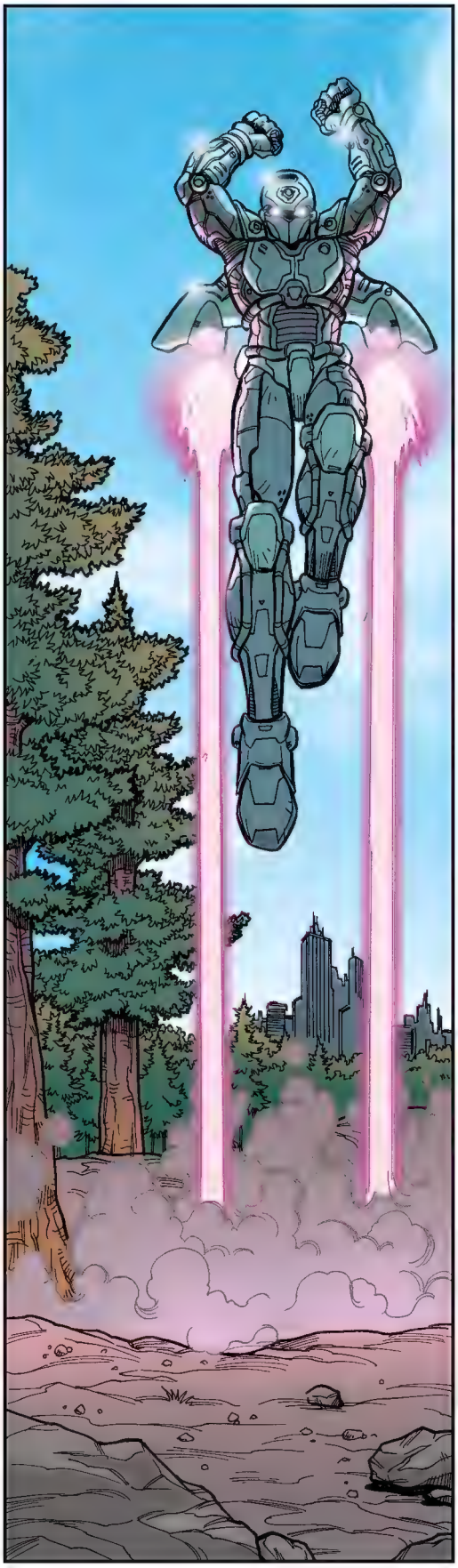
WE'RE APPROACHING EARTH NOW.
...AND NOT A WEEK TOO SOON!
I TELL YOU, I DON'T REMEMBER IT TAKING THIS LONG TO GET TO GELDARIA..
OF COURSE... I WAS UNCONSCIOUS FOR MOST OF THAT TRIP.

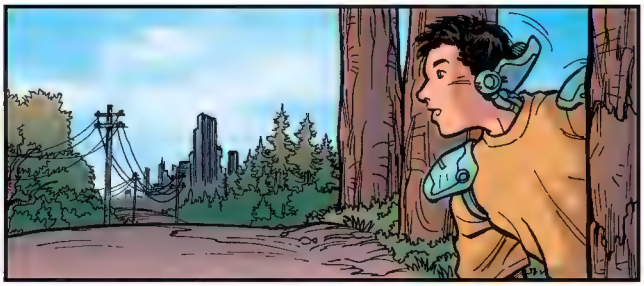
SORRY ABOUT ALL THAT. IT WAS PART OF PROCEDURE.

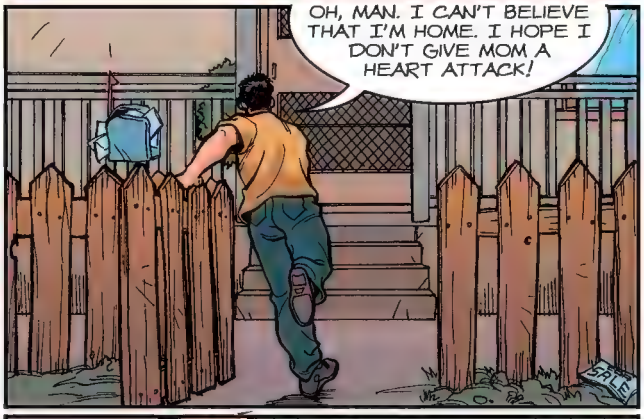
DON'T SWEAT IT, MAN. IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO. BESIDES, YOU THOUGHT I WAS A MURDERER.
FAIR ENOUGH.

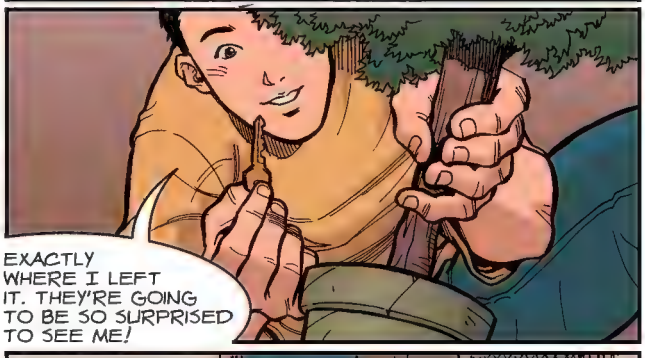
HOW FAR DO YOU WANT ME TO TAKE YOU?
I CAN FLY MYSELF FROM HERE.

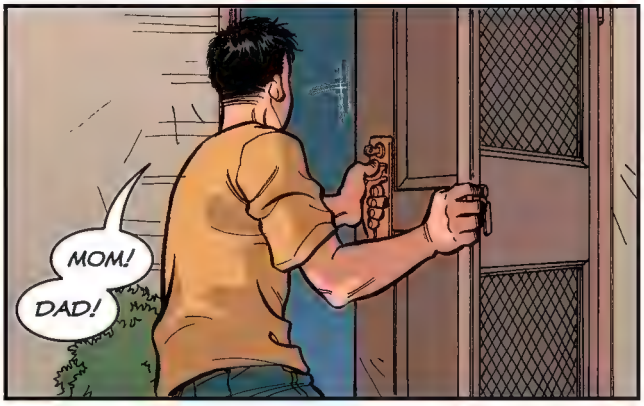
I GUESS I'LL SEE YOU AROUND, MAN.
GOOD BYE, ZACK.






OH, MAN. I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT I'M HOME. I HOPE I DON'T GIVE MOM A HEART ATTACK!


EXACTLY WHERE I LEFT IT. THEY'RE GOING TO BE SO SURPRISED TO SEE ME!


MOM!
DAD!

I'M--
HOME...
MOM?!
DAD?!

ROBERT KIRKMAN • E.J. SU • RON RILEY
TECHJACKET
image
5 MAR
IMAGECOMICS.COM

image® COMICS PRESENTS

TECH JACKET™

CO-CREATOR, WRITER, LETTERER:
ROBERT KIRKMAN

CO-CREATOR, PENCILER, INKER:
E.J. SU

COLORIST:
RON RILEY

STUDIO FUNK-O-TRON
WWW.FUNKOTRON.COM

FOR IMAGE COMICS

JIM VALENTINO, PUBLISHER
BRENT BRAUN, DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION
ERIC STEPHENSON, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING
TRACI HALE, CONTROLLER/FOREIGN LICENSING
BRETT EVANS, ART DIRECTOR
ALLEN HUI, WEB DEVELOPER
CINDIE ESPINOZA, ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
PETER MASON HAUGE, TRAFFIC
TIM HEGARTY, BOOK TRADE COORDINATOR

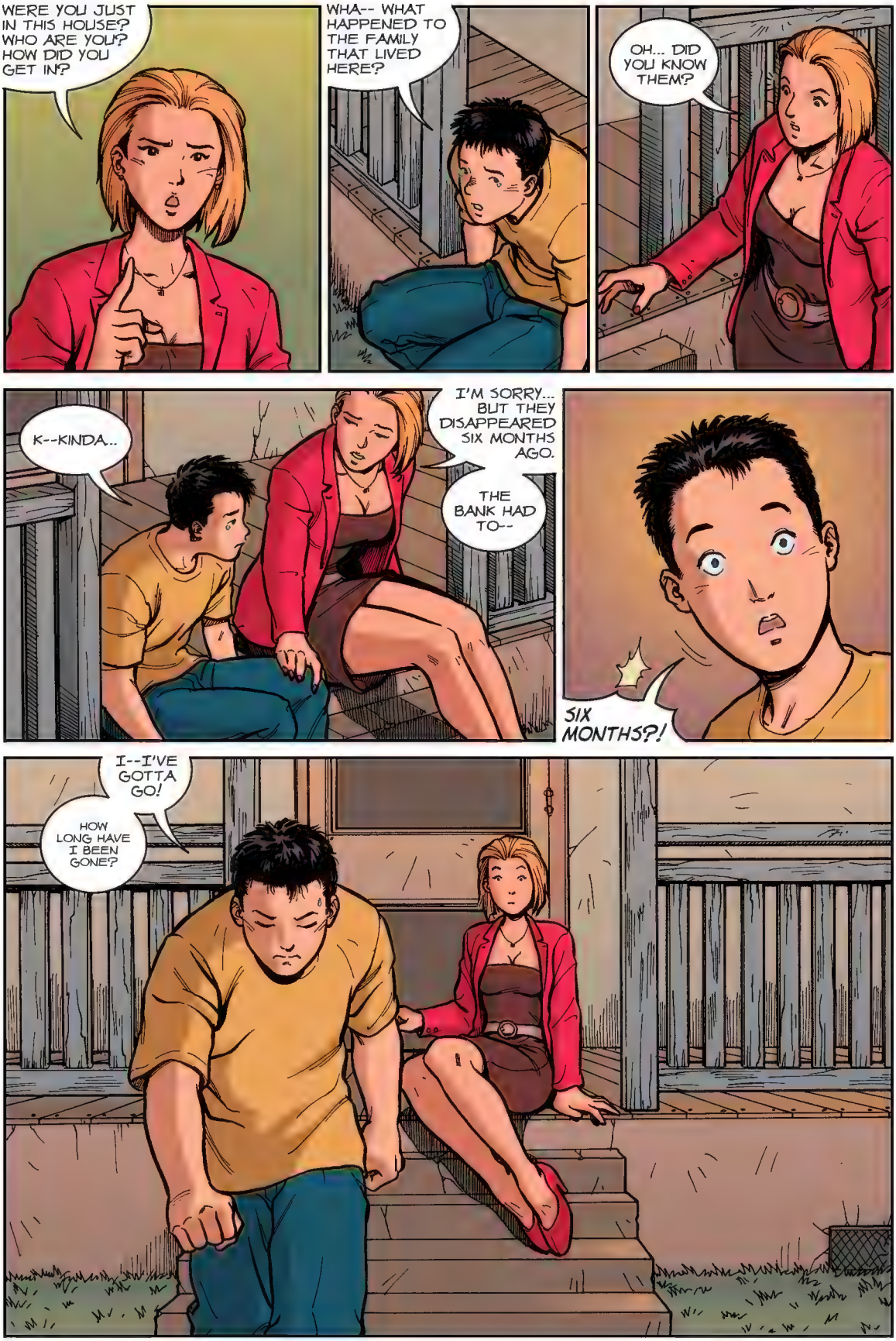
WWW.IMAGECOMICS.COM

TECH JACKET VOL. I #5. MARCH, 2003. FIRST PRINTING. An Image Comics Group title published by Image Comics 1071 N. Batavia St. Ste A, Orange, CA 92867.

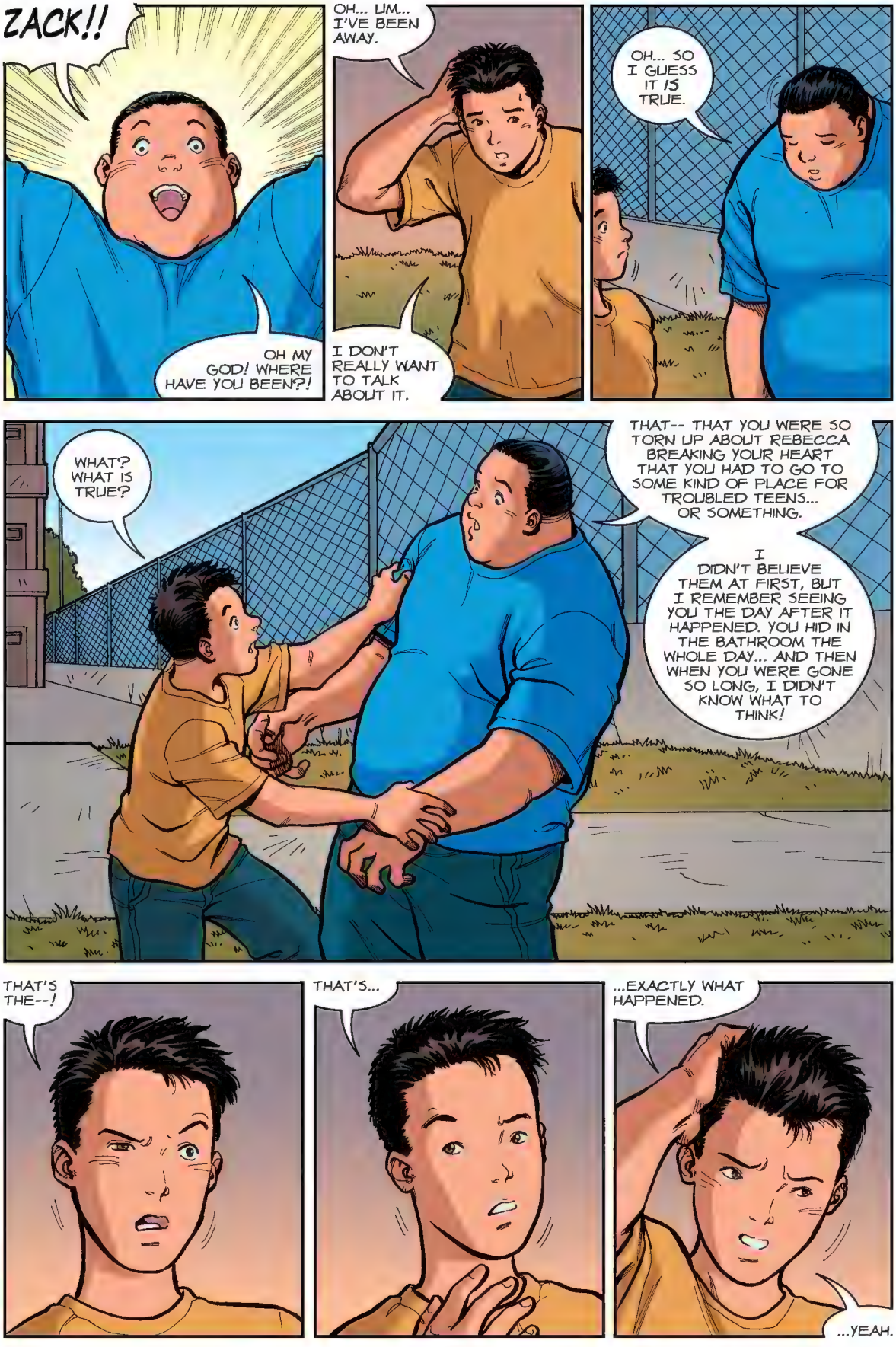
Image and it's logo are ® and © Image Comics, Inc. 2003. All right reserved. TECH JACKET is ™ and © Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su, 2003. All rights reserved. Any similarities to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su. Publisher and creators assume no responsibility for unsolicited materials.
PRINTED IN USA

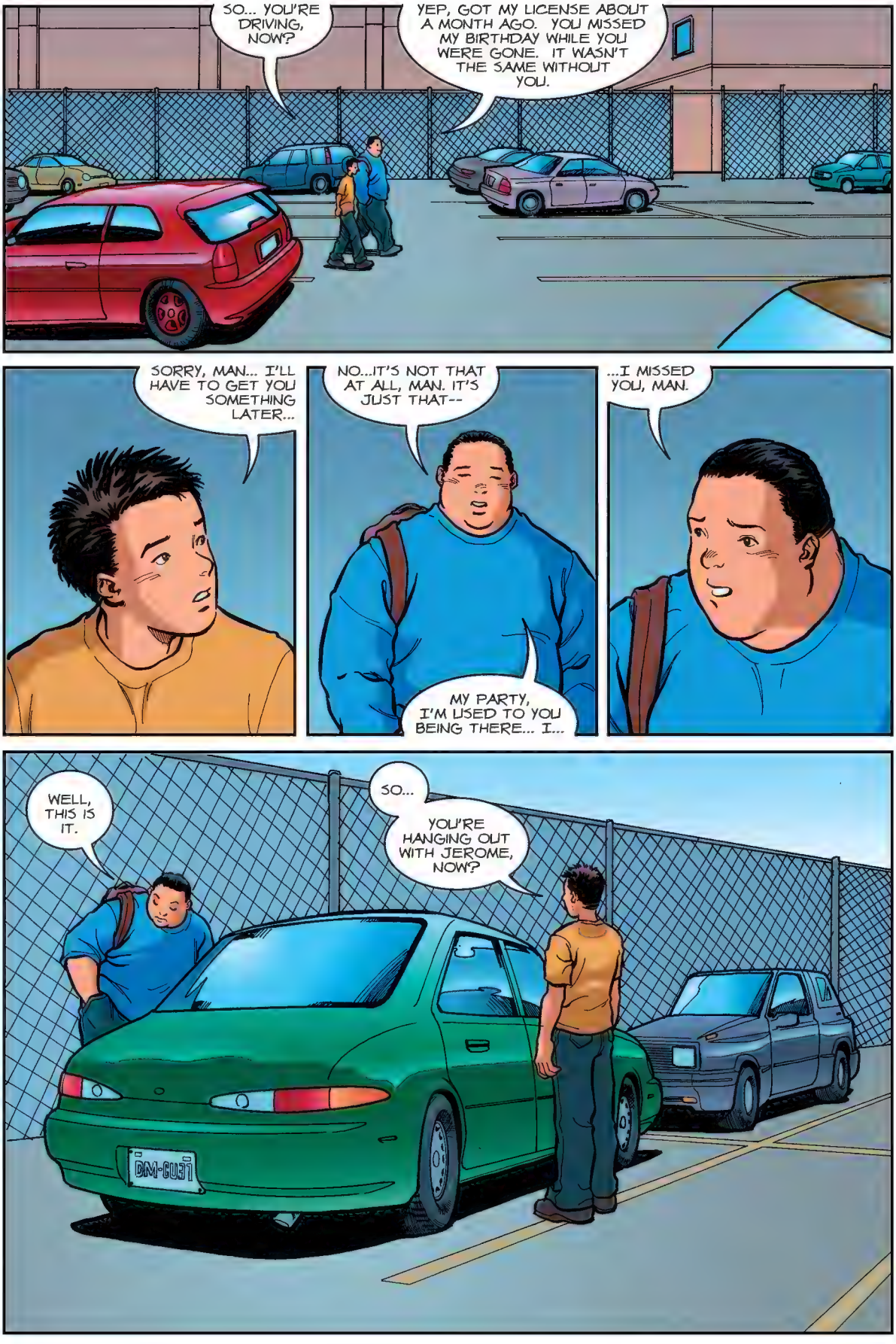
MOM?
DAD?
I'M HOME...
HELLO?
ANYBODY?

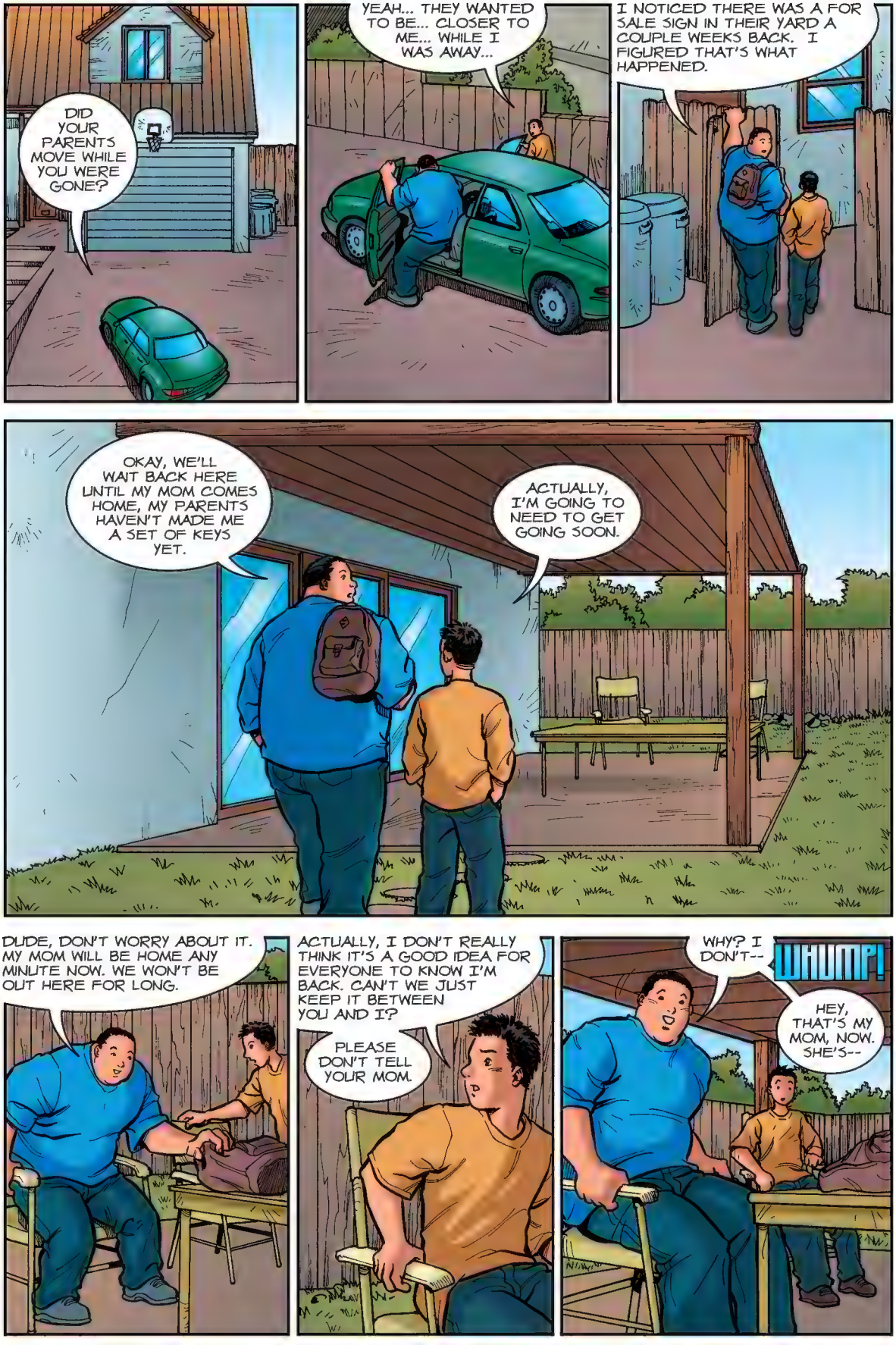
HELLO?
EXCUSE ME!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
MIKA REALTORS
MAIL

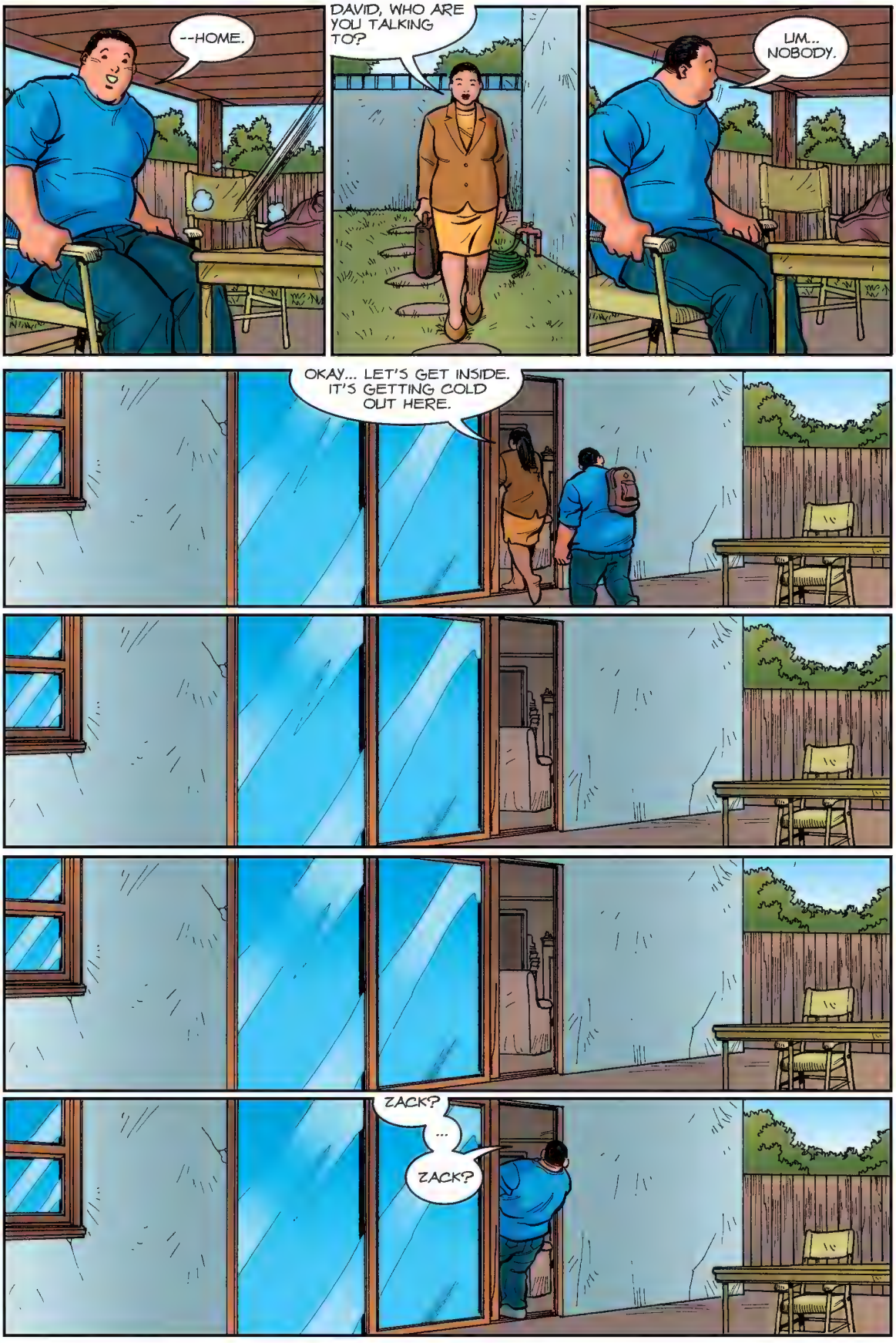

WERE YOU JUST IN THIS HOUSE? WHO ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU GET IN?
WHA-- WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FAMILY THAT LIVED HERE?
OH... DID YOU KNOW THEM?
K--KINDA..
I'M SORRY... BUT THEY DISAPPEARED SIX MONTHS AGO.
THE BANK HAD TO--
SIX MONTHS?!
I--I'VE GOTTA GO!
HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN GONE?

NO KIDDING! I GOT A C BUT IT WAS A LOW ONE.
YEAH. MR. ZEDDEMORE IS MAKING HIS TESTS WAY TOO HARD.
HEY, JEROME. YOU READY?
MAN, I WISH I HAD GOTTEN MS. MELNITZ.
YOU AIN'T THE ONLY ONE.
LATER, GUYS.
SEE YA, DAVID.
SO... I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU SAVED MY HOMEWORK?


ZACK!!
OH MY GOD! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!
OH... UM... I'VE BEEN AWAY.
I DON'T REALLY WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.
OH... SO I GUESS IT IS TRUE.
WHAT? WHAT IS TRUE?
THAT-- THAT YOU WERE SO TORN UP ABOUT REBECCA BREAKING YOUR HEART THAT YOU HAD TO GO TO SOME KIND OF PLACE FOR TROUBLED TEENS... OR SOMETHING.
I DIDN'T BELIEVE THEM AT FIRST, BUT I REMEMBER SEEING YOU THE DAY AFTER IT HAPPENED. YOU HID IN THE BATHROOM THE WHOLE DAY... AND THEN WHEN YOU WERE GONE SO LONG, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK!
THAT'S THE--!
THAT'S...
...EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED.
...YEAH.

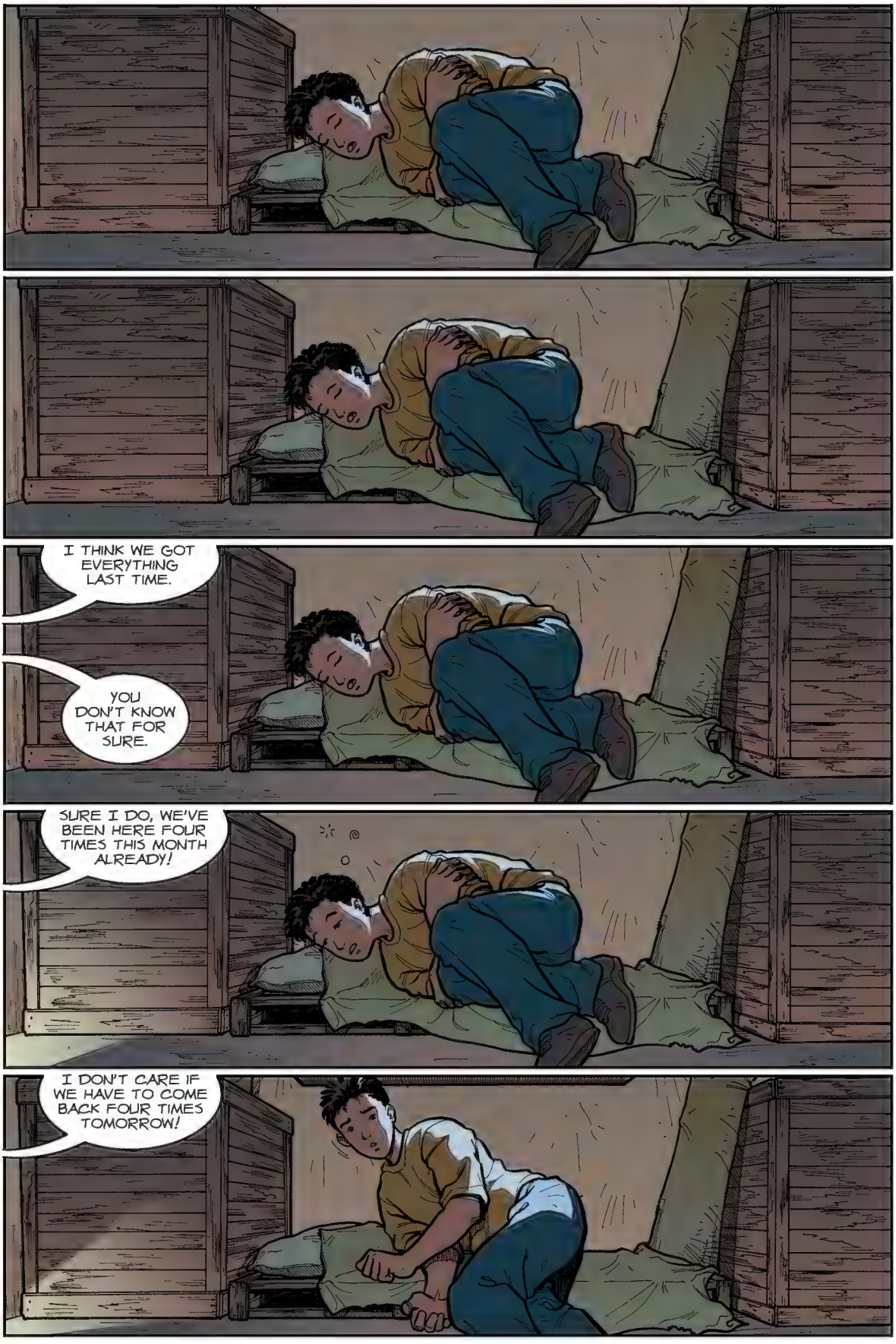

SO... YOU'RE DRIVING, NOW?
YEP, GOT MY LICENSE ABOUT A MONTH AGO. YOU MISSED MY BIRTHDAY WHILE YOU WERE GONE. IT WASN'T THE SAME WITHOUT YOU.
SORRY, MAN... I'LL HAVE TO GET YOU SOMETHING LATER...
NO...IT'S NOT THAT AT ALL, MAN. IT'S JUST THAT--
MY PARTY, I'M USED TO YOU BEING THERE... I...
...I MISSED YOU, MAN.
WELL, THIS IS IT.
SO...
YOU'RE HANGING OUT WITH JEROME, NOW?

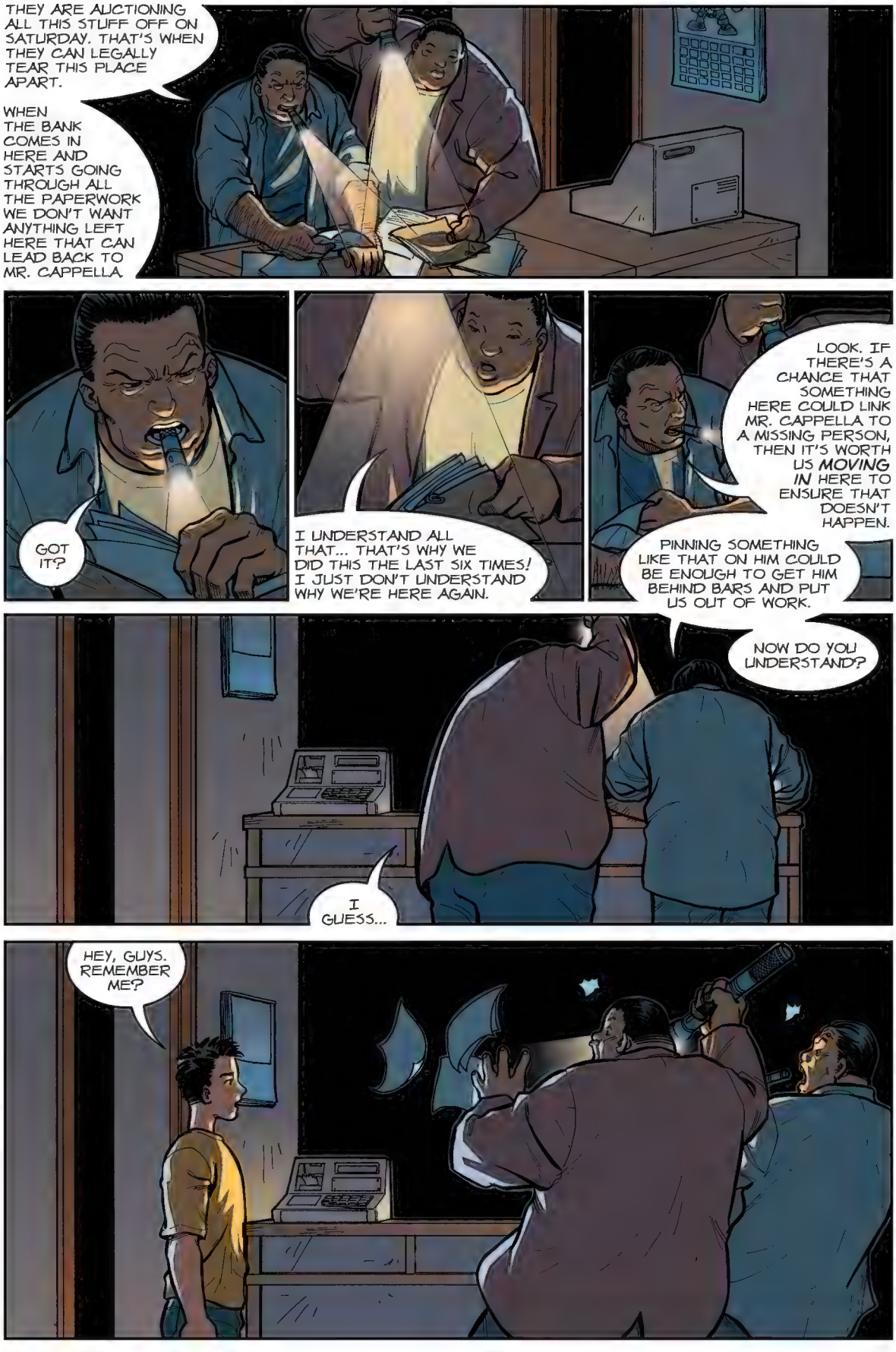

DID YOUR PARENTS MOVE WHILE YOU WERE GONE?
YEAH... THEY WANTED TO BE... CLOSER TO ME... WHILE I WAS AWAY...
I NOTICED THERE WAS A FOR SALE SIGN IN THEIR YARD A COUPLE WEEKS BACK. I FIGURED THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.
OKAY, WE'LL WAIT BACK HERE UNTIL MY MOM COMES HOME, MY PARENTS HAVEN'T MADE ME A SET OF KEYS YET.
ACTUALLY, I'M GOING TO NEED TO GET GOING SOON.
DUDE, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. MY MOM WILL BE HOME ANY MINUTE NOW. WE WON'T BE OUT HERE FOR LONG.
ACTUALLY, I DON'T REALLY THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA FOR EVERYONE TO KNOW I'M BACK. CAN'T WE JUST KEEP IT BETWEEN YOU AND I?
PLEASE DON'T TELL YOUR MOM.
WHY? I DON'T--
WHUMP!
HEY, THAT'S MY MOM, NOW. SHE'S--


--HOME.
DAVID, WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?
UM... NOBODY.
OKAY... LET'S GET INSIDE. IT'S GETTING COLD OUT HERE.
ZACK?
...
ZACK?

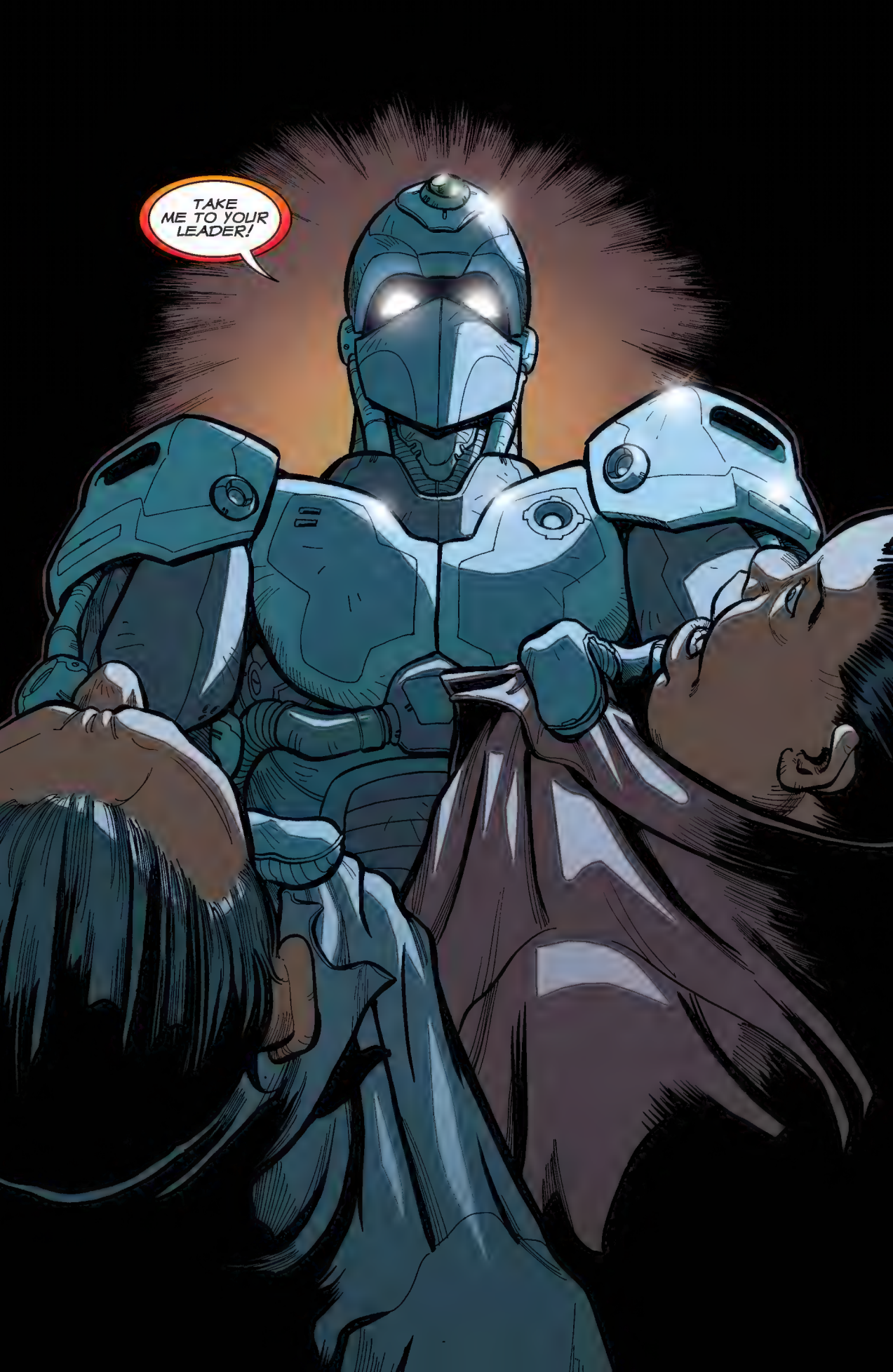
Hammer Time Tools
DAD...

EVERYTHING'S THE SAME...
WHATEVER... HAPPENED TO THEM...HAPPENED LESS THAN A WEEK AFTER I WAS TAKEN TO GELDARIA

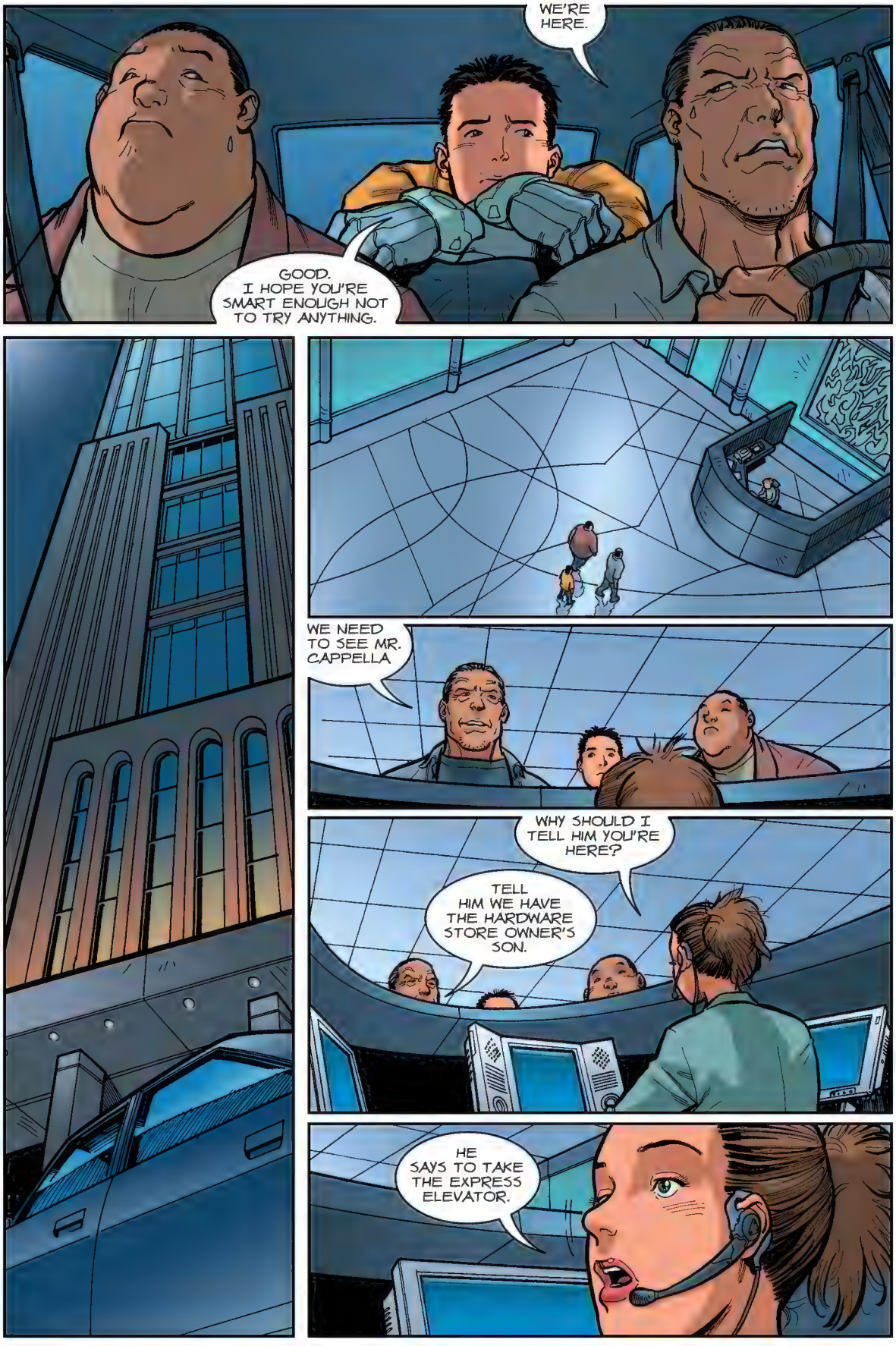

I THINK WE GOT EVERYTHING LAST TIME.
YOU DON'T KNOW THAT FOR SURE.
SURE I DO, WE'VE BEEN HERE FOUR TIMES THIS MONTH ALREADY!
I DON'T CARE IF WE HAVE TO COME BACK FOUR TIMES TOMORROW!

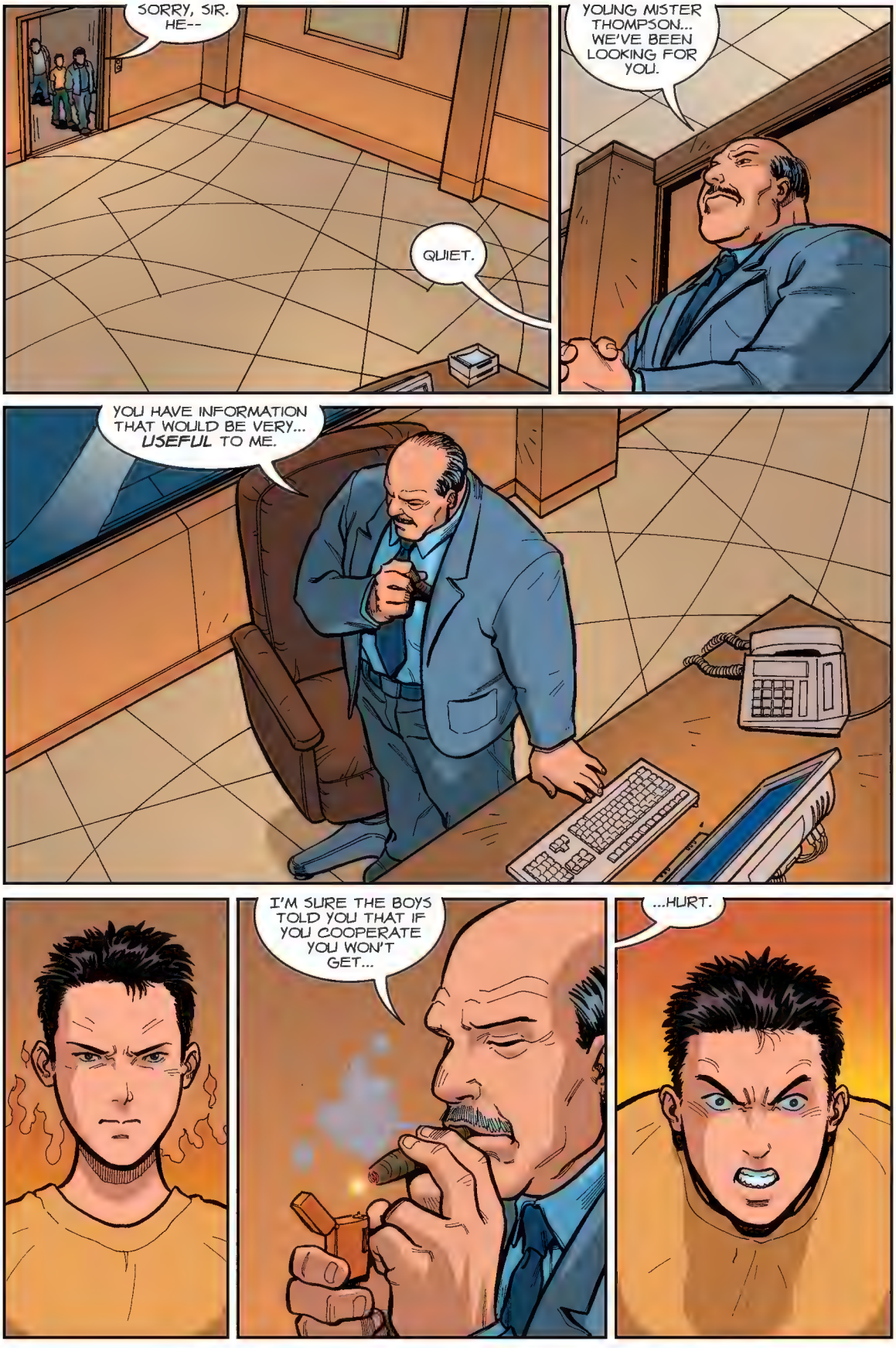

THEY ARE AUCTIONING ALL THIS STUFF OFF ON SATURDAY. THAT'S WHEN THEY CAN LEGALLY TEAR THIS PLACE APART.
WHEN THE BANK COMES IN HERE AND STARTS GOING THROUGH ALL THE PAPERWORK WE DON'T WANT ANYTHING LEFT HERE THAT CAN LEAD BACK TO MR. CAPPELLA.
GOT IT?
I UNDERSTAND ALL THAT... THAT'S WHY WE DID THIS THE LAST SIX TIMES! I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY WE'RE HERE AGAIN.
LOOK. IF THERE'S A CHANCE THAT SOMETHING HERE COULD LINK MR. CAPPELLA TO A MISSING PERSON, THEN IT'S WORTH US *MOVING IN* HERE TO ENSURE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.
PINNING SOMETHING LIKE THAT ON HIM COULD BE ENOUGH TO GET HIM BEHIND BARS AND PUT US OUT OF WORK.
NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
I GUESS...
HEY, GUYS. REMEMBER ME?

YOU MAY HAVE CAUGHT US OFF GUARD THE FIRST TIME... BUT NOW WE'RE READY FOR YOU.
DO YOUR WORST.
WHERE ARE MY PARENTS?
KID. I'M TELLING YOU RIGHT NOW TO BACK OFF.
WE DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU.
YOU'RE WELCOME TO TRY.
BONK!
WONK!
THERE'S MUCH MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM.
THOOM!
THOOM!

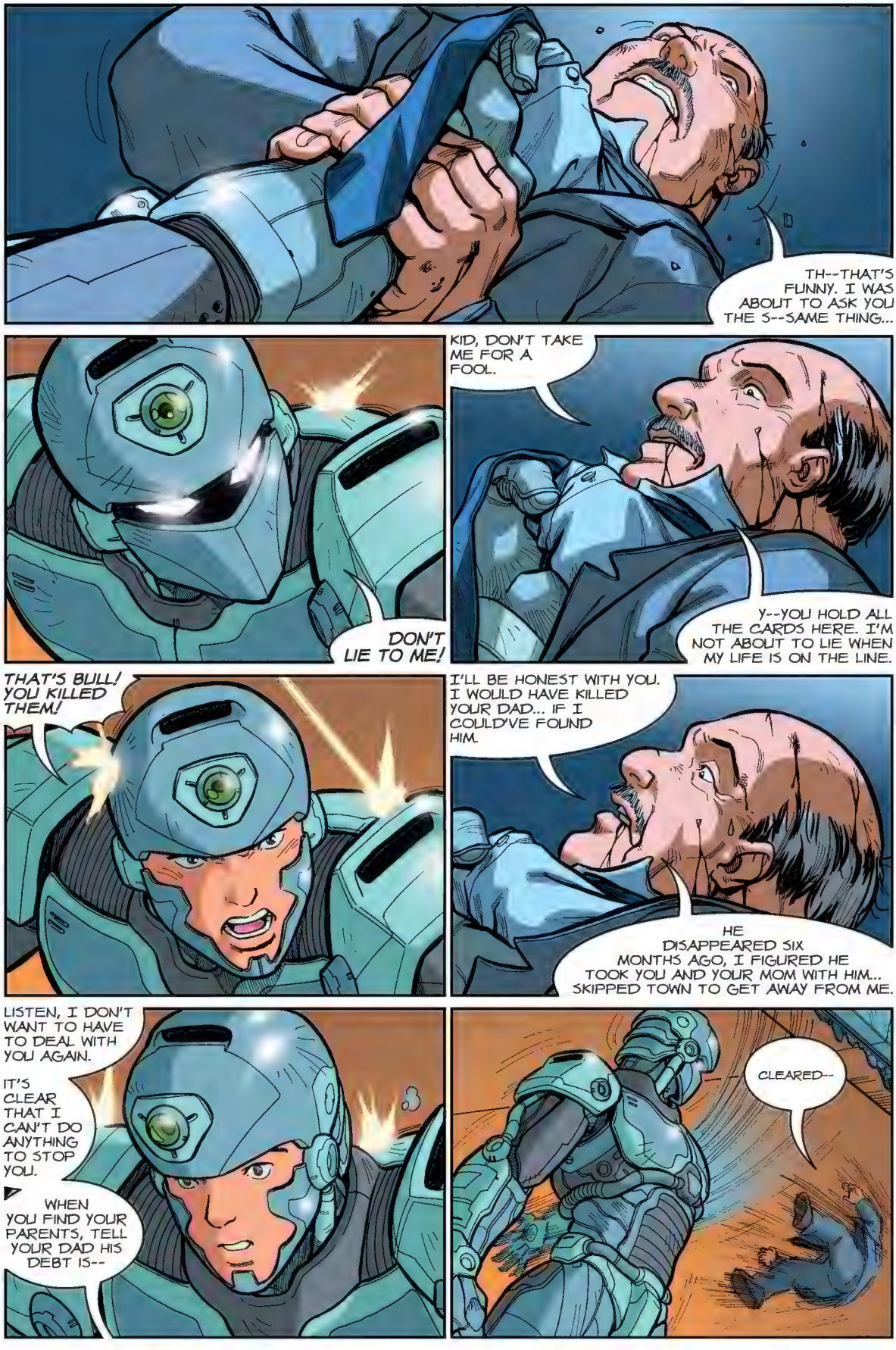

TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER!

OKAY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO ACCOMPLISH BY DOING THIS.
Y'KNOW, I'VE GOT LASERS, TOO.
I'LL SHUT UP.


WE'RE HERE.
GOOD. I HOPE YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH NOT TO TRY ANYTHING.
WE NEED TO SEE MR. CAPPELLA
WHY SHOULD I TELL HIM YOU'RE HERE?
TELL HIM WE HAVE THE HARDWARE STORE OWNER'S SON.
HE SAYS TO TAKE THE EXPRESS ELEVATOR.


SORRY, SIR. HE--
QUIET.
YOUNG MISTER THOMPSON... WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.
YOU HAVE INFORMATION THAT WOULD BE VERY... USEFUL TO ME.
I'M SURE THE BOYS TOLD YOU THAT IF YOU COOPERATE YOU WON'T GET...
...HURT.

OOF!
FWUMP!
SHRAKKA-RAKKA-RASH!!!
WHERE ARE MY PARENTS?!


TH--THAT'S FUNNY. I WAS ABOUT TO ASK YOU THE S--SAME THING...
KID, DON'T TAKE ME FOR A FOOL.
DON'T LIE TO ME!
Y--YOU HOLD ALL THE CARDS HERE. I'M NOT ABOUT TO LIE WHEN MY LIFE IS ON THE LINE.
THAT'S BULL! YOU KILLED THEM!
I'LL BE HONEST WITH YOU. I WOULD HAVE KILLED YOUR DAD... IF I COULD'VE FOUND HIM.
HE DISAPPEARED SIX MONTHS AGO, I FIGURED HE TOOK YOU AND YOUR MOM WITH HIM... SKIPPED TOWN TO GET AWAY FROM ME.
LISTEN, I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH YOU AGAIN.
IT'S CLEAR THAT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO STOP YOU.
WHEN YOU FIND YOUR PARENTS, TELL YOUR DAD HIS DEBT IS--
CLEARED--

OH GOD, SIR! ARE YOU OKAY?
BACK OFF!

CALL ME A FRIGGIN' AMBULANCE, WILL YOU!
YES, SIR!
YOU WANT ME TO GATHER UP A FEW GUYS AND GO AFTER THIS KID?
IN WHAT, OUR SECRET SPY JET? ARE YOU INSANE? DID YOU SLEEP THROUGH WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
I DON'T EVER WANT TO SEE THAT... THING AGAIN!
WHEN I TOLD HIM HIS FATHER'S DEBT WAS CLEAR, I MEANT IT.
MY DEALINGS WITH THAT FAMILY ARE OVER.

MOM...
DAD...
WHERE DID YOU GO?

ROBERT KIRKMAN - E.J. SU - RON RILEY

TECH JACKET™

image

6 APR

IMAGECOMICS.COM

image® COMICS PRESENTS

TECH JACKET™

CO-CREATOR, WRITER, LETTERER:
ROBERT KIRKMAN

CO-CREATOR, PENCILER, INKER:
E.J. SU

COLORIST:
RON RILEY

STUDIO FUNK-O-TRON
WWW.FUNKOTRON.COM

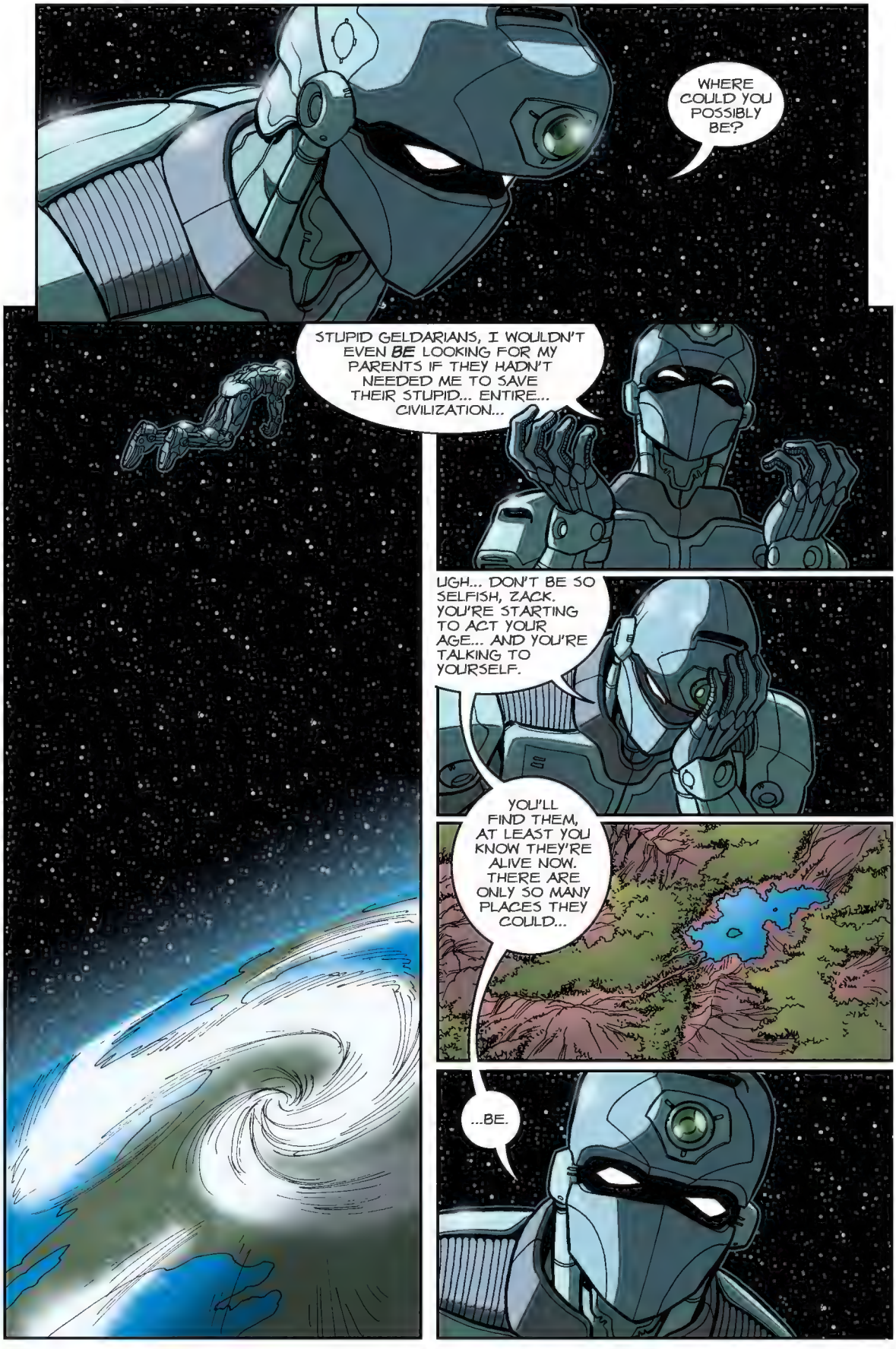
FOR IMAGE COMICS

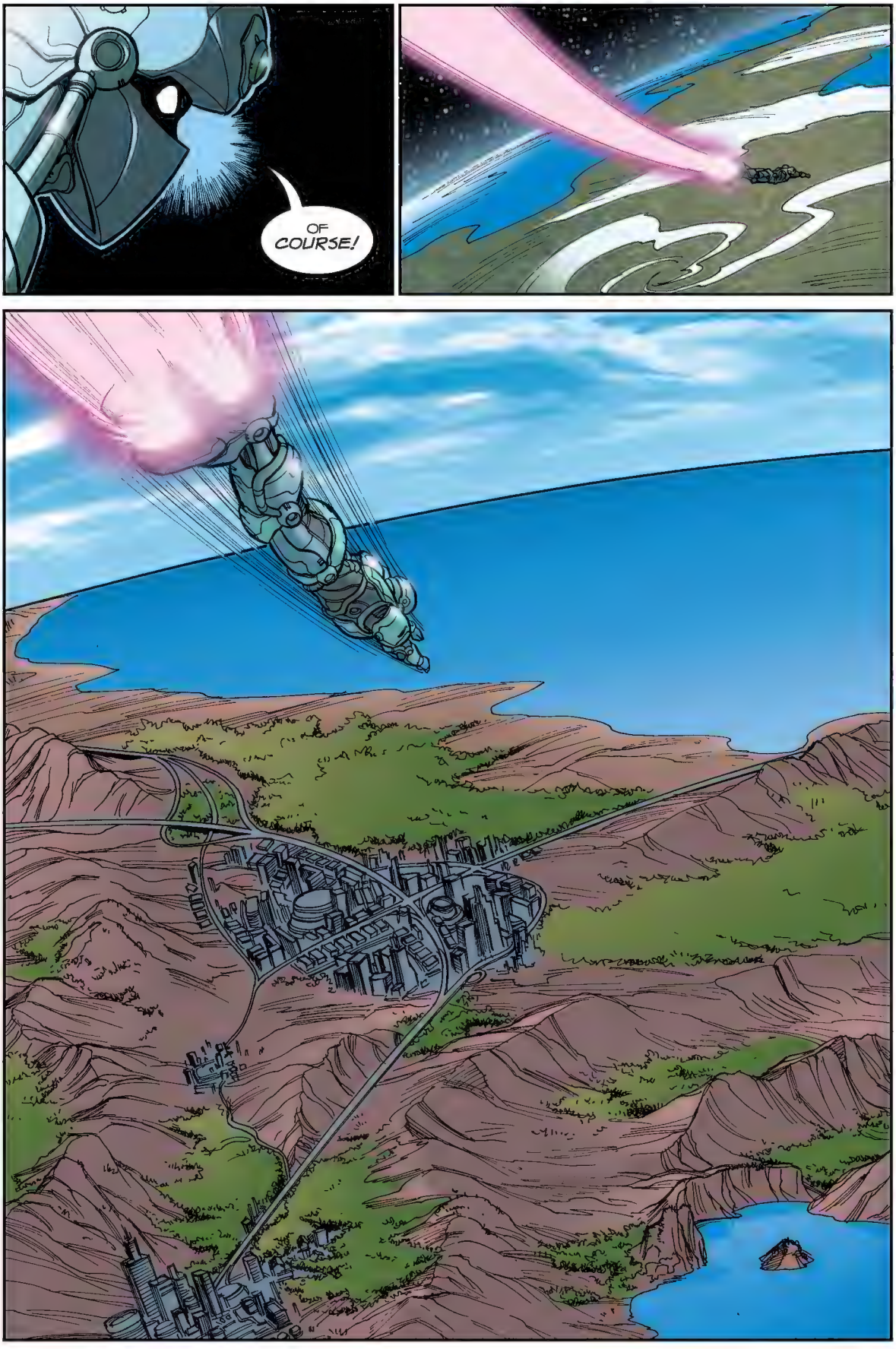
JIM VALENTINO, PUBLISHER
BRENT BRAUN, DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION
ERIC STEPHENSON, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING
TRACI HALE, CONTROLLER/FOREIGN LICENSING
BRETT EVANS, ART DIRECTOR
ALLEN HUI, WEB DEVELOPER
CINDIE ESPINOZA, ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
TIM HEGARTY, BOOK TRADE COORDINATOR

WWW.IMAGECOMICS.COM

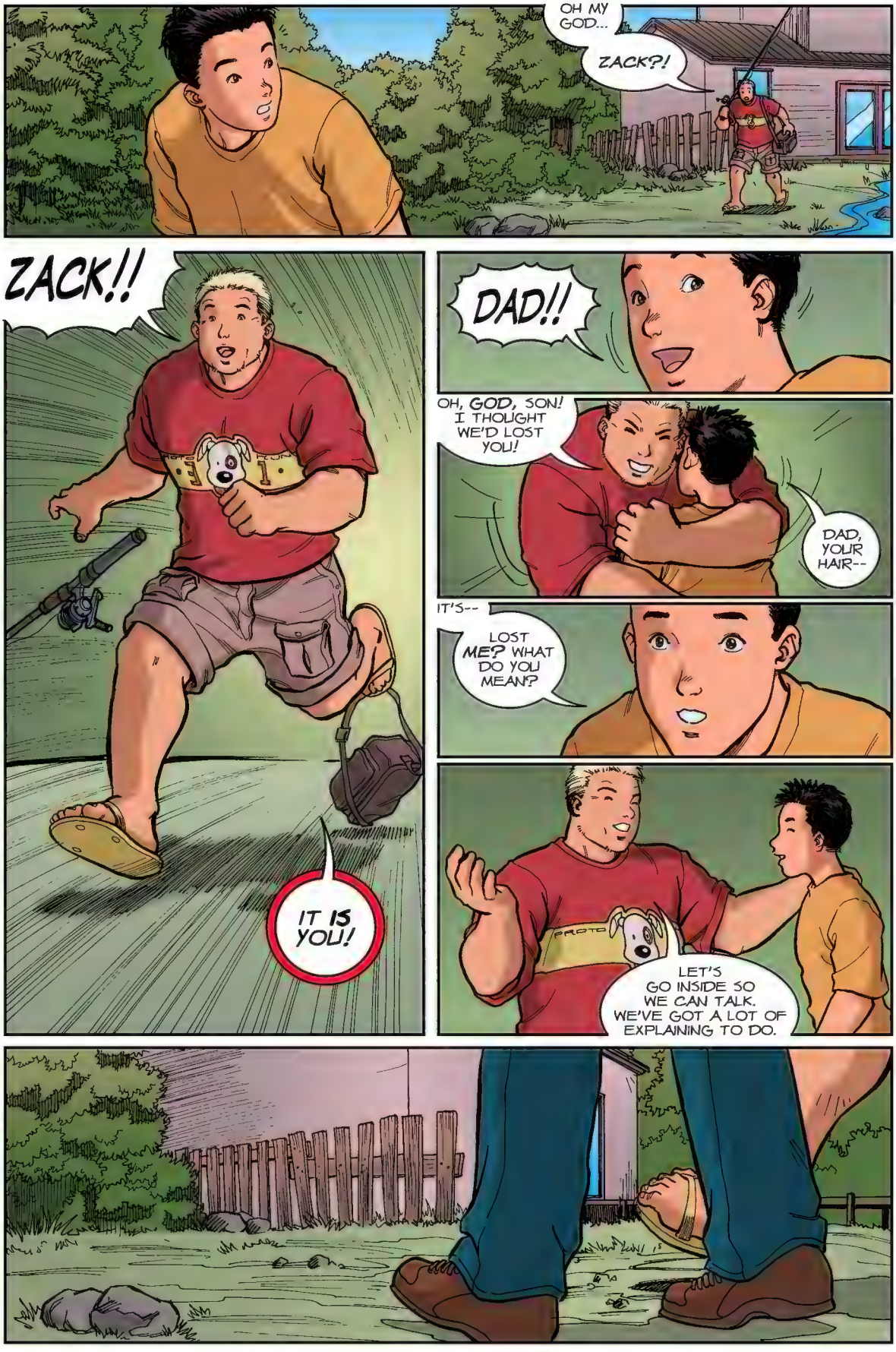
TECH JACKET VOL. I #6. April, 2003. FIRST PRINTING. An Image Comics Group title published by Image Comics 1071 N. Batavia St. Ste A, Orange, CA 92867.

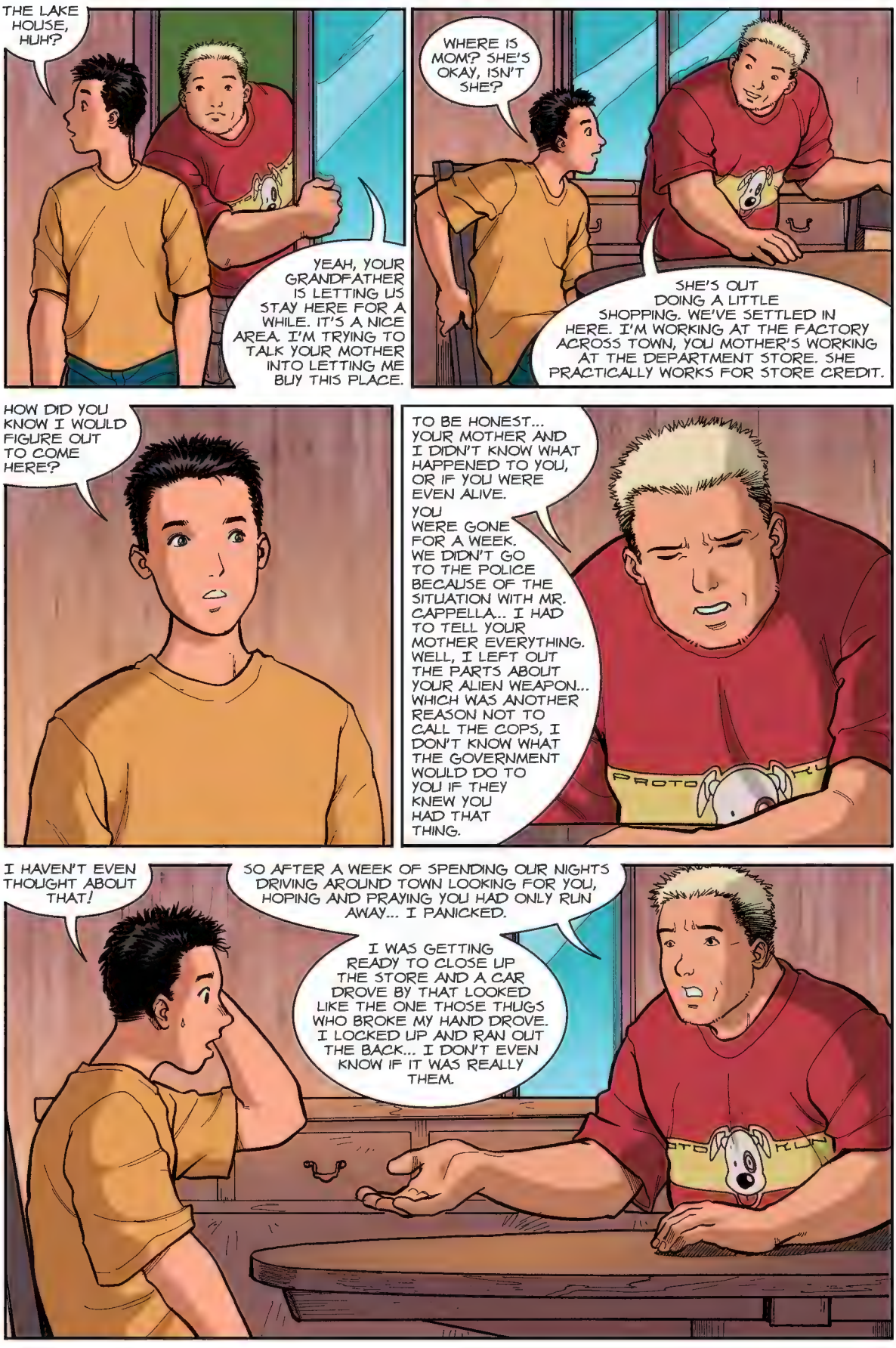
Image and it's logo are ™ and © Image Comics, Inc. 2003. All right reserved. TECH JACKET is ™ and © Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su, 2003. All rights reserved. Any similarities to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su. Publisher and creators assume no responsibility for unsolicited materials.

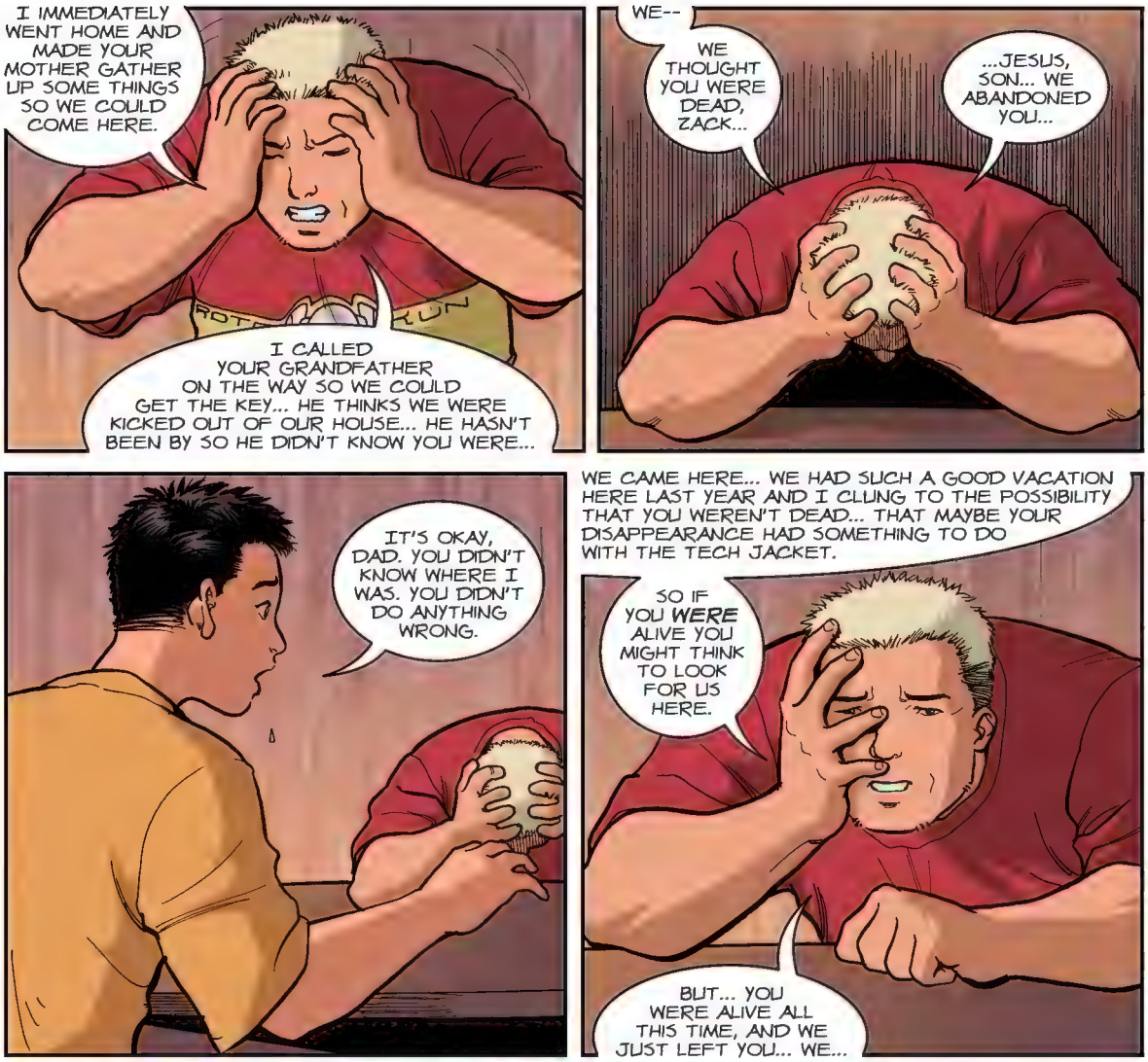

WHERE COULD YOU POSSIBLY BE?
STUPID GELDARIANS, I WOULDN'T EVEN BE LOOKING FOR MY PARENTS IF THEY HADN'T NEEDED ME TO SAVE THEIR STUPID... ENTIRE... CIVILIZATION...
UGH... DON'T BE SO SELFISH, ZACK. YOU'RE STARTING TO ACT YOUR AGE... AND YOU'RE TALKING TO YOURSELF.
YOU'LL FIND THEM, AT LEAST YOU KNOW THEY'RE ALIVE NOW. THERE ARE ONLY SO MANY PLACES THEY COULD...
...BE.

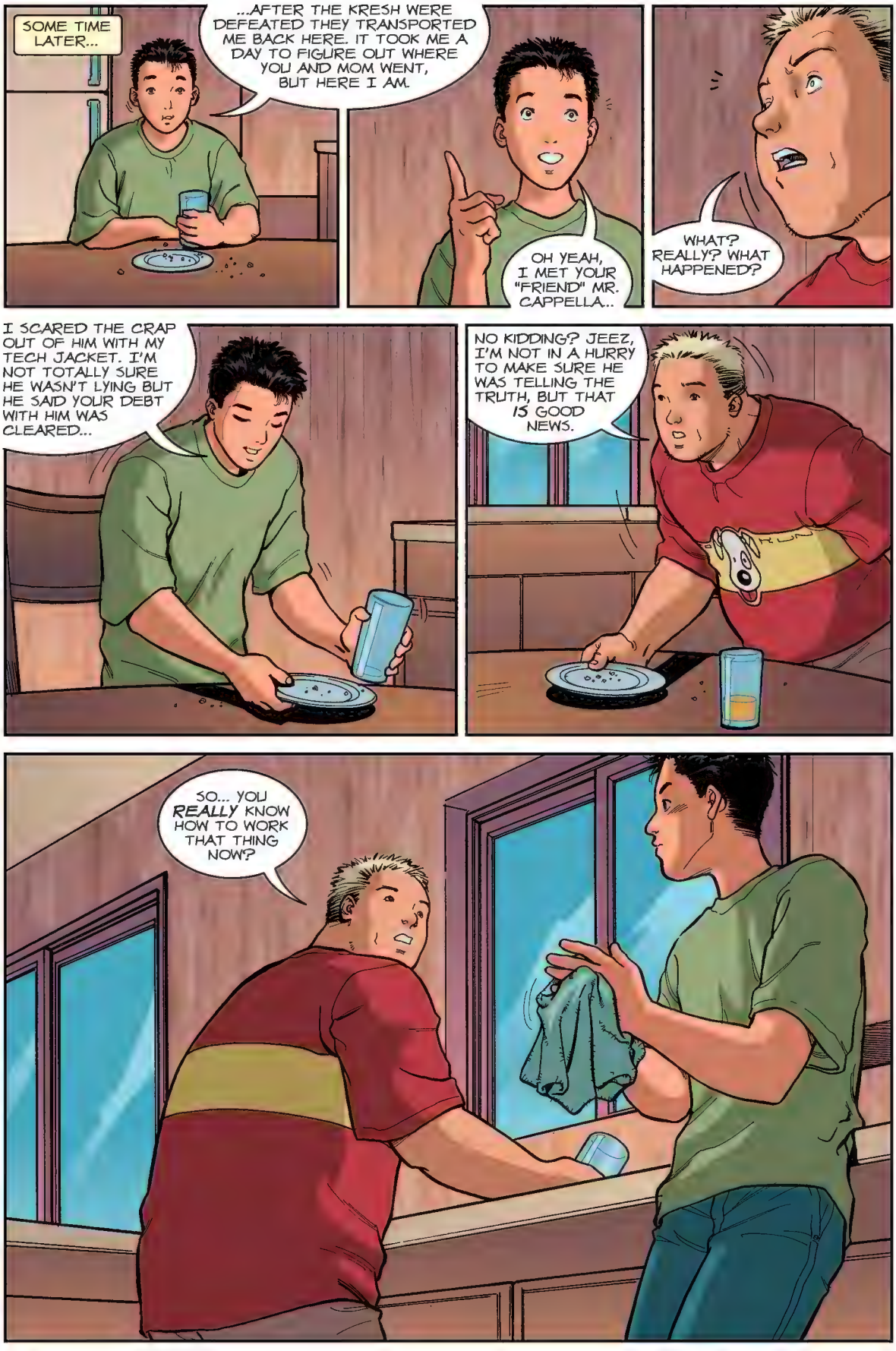

OF COURSE!

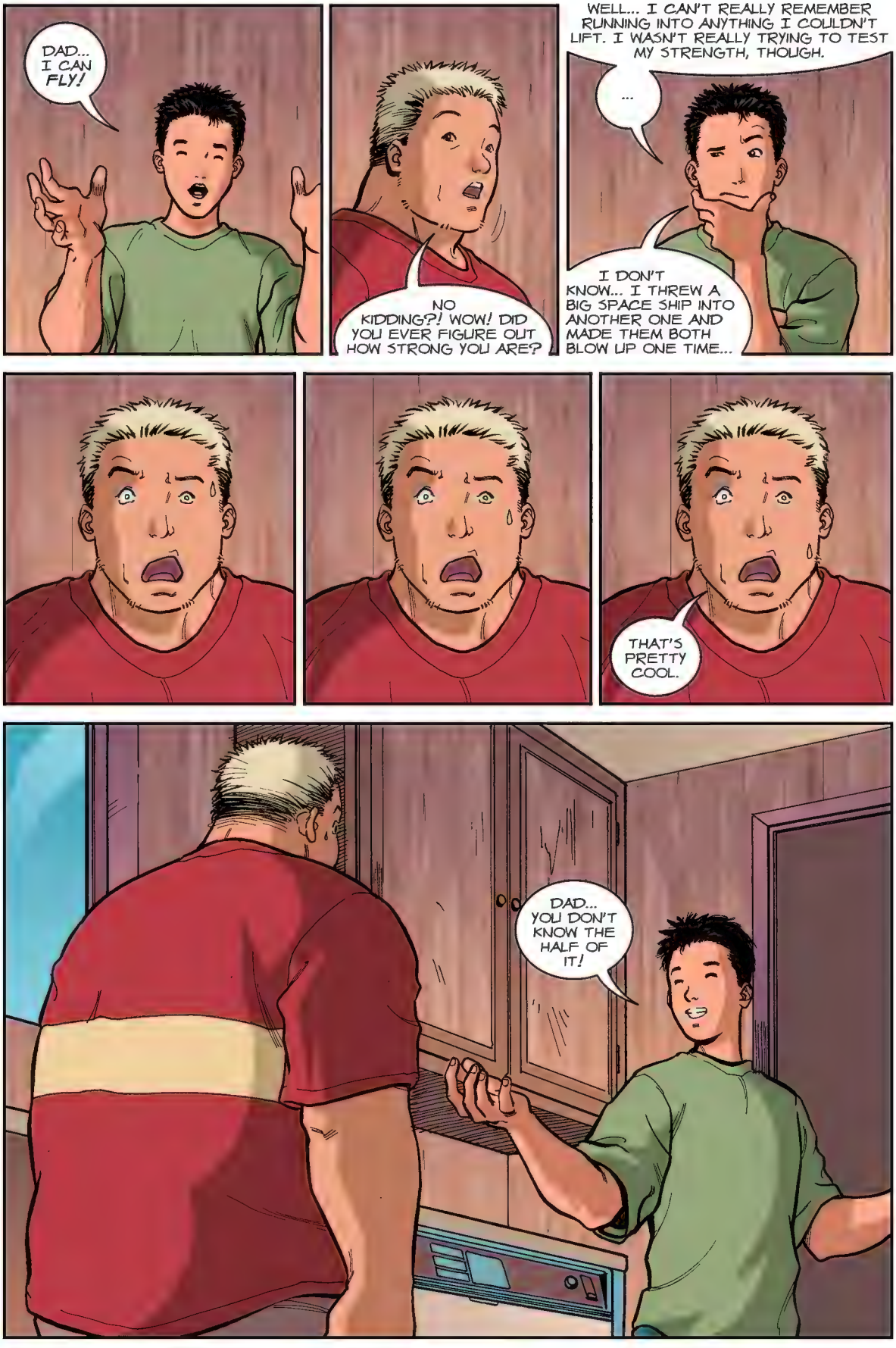
WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THIS BEFORE?


OH MY GOD...
ZACK?!
ZACK!!
IT IS YOU!
DAD!!
OH, GOD, SON! I THOUGHT WE'D LOST YOU!
DAD, YOUR HAIR--
IT'S--
LOST ME? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
LET'S GO INSIDE SO WE CAN TALK. WE'VE GOT A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO.


THE LAKE HOUSE, HUH?
YEAH, YOUR GRANDFATHER IS LETTING US STAY HERE FOR A WHILE. IT'S A NICE AREA. I'M TRYING TO TALK YOUR MOTHER INTO LETTING ME BUY THIS PLACE.
WHERE IS MOM? SHE'S OKAY, ISN'T SHE?
SHE'S OUT DOING A LITTLE SHOPPING. WE'VE SETTLED IN HERE. I'M WORKING AT THE FACTORY ACROSS TOWN, YOU MOTHER'S WORKING AT THE DEPARTMENT STORE. SHE PRACTICALLY WORKS FOR STORE CREDIT.
HOW DID YOU KNOW I WOULD FIGURE OUT TO COME HERE?
TO BE HONEST... YOUR MOTHER AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, OR IF YOU WERE EVEN ALIVE.
YOU WERE GONE FOR A WEEK. WE DIDN'T GO TO THE POLICE BECAUSE OF THE SITUATION WITH MR. CAPPELLA... I HAD TO TELL YOUR MOTHER EVERYTHING. WELL, I LEFT OUT THE PARTS ABOUT YOUR ALIEN WEAPON... WHICH WAS ANOTHER REASON NOT TO CALL THE COPS, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DO TO YOU IF THEY KNEW YOU HAD THAT THING.
I HAVEN'T EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT THAT!
SO AFTER A WEEK OF SPENDING OUR NIGHTS DRIVING AROUND TOWN LOOKING FOR YOU, HOPING AND PRAYING YOU HAD ONLY RUN AWAY... I PANICKED.
I WAS GETTING READY TO CLOSE UP THE STORE AND A CAR DROVE BY THAT LOOKED LIKE THE ONE THOSE THUGS WHO BROKE MY HAND DROVE. I LOCKED UP AND RAN OUT THE BACK... I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF IT WAS REALLY THEM.


I IMMEDIATELY WENT HOME AND MADE YOUR MOTHER GATHER UP SOME THINGS SO WE COULD COME HERE.
I CALLED YOUR GRANDFATHER ON THE WAY SO WE COULD GET THE KEY... HE THINKS WE WERE KICKED OUT OF OUR HOUSE... HE HASN'T BEEN BY SO HE DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE...
WE--
WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD, ZACK...
...JESUS, SON... WE ABANDONED YOU...
IT'S OKAY, DAD. YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHERE I WAS. YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
WE CAME HERE... WE HAD SUCH A GOOD VACATION HERE LAST YEAR AND I CLUNG TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT YOU WEREN'T DEAD... THAT MAYBE YOUR DISAPPEARANCE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE TECH JACKET.
SO IF YOU WERE ALIVE YOU MIGHT THINK TO LOOK FOR US HERE.
BUT... YOU WERE ALIVE ALL THIS TIME, AND WE JUST LEFT YOU... WE...
...WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL THIS TIME?
WELL...
THAT'S A LONG STORY.


SOME TIME LATER...
...AFTER THE KRESH WERE DEFEATED THEY TRANSPORTED ME BACK HERE. IT TOOK ME A DAY TO FIGURE OUT WHERE YOU AND MOM WENT, BUT HERE I AM.
OH YEAH, I MET YOUR "FRIEND" MR. CAPPELLA...
WHAT? REALLY? WHAT HAPPENED?
I SCARED THE CRAP OUT OF HIM WITH MY TECH JACKET. I'M NOT TOTALLY SURE HE WASN'T LYING BUT HE SAID YOUR DEBT WITH HIM WAS CLEARED...
NO KIDDING? JEEZ, I'M NOT IN A HURRY TO MAKE SURE HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH, BUT THAT IS GOOD NEWS.
SO... YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO WORK THAT THING NOW?


DAD... I CAN FLY!
NO KIDDING?! WOW! DID YOU EVER FIGURE OUT HOW STRONG YOU ARE?
WELL... I CAN'T REALLY REMEMBER RUNNING INTO ANYTHING I COULDN'T LIFT. I WASN'T REALLY TRYING TO TEST MY STRENGTH, THOUGH.
...
I DON'T KNOW... I THREW A BIG SPACE SHIP INTO ANOTHER ONE AND MADE THEM BOTH BLOW UP ONE TIME...
THAT'S PRETTY COOL.
DAD... YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT!

I KNOW HOW TO DO EVERYTHING WITH THIS THING NOW! I CAN HIT PEOPLE WITH THOSE TENTACLE THINGS, I CAN JUMP AND FLIP AND FLY AND MOVE REALLY FAST...!
I CAN SHOOT LASERS, DAD! TONS OF THEM! AND I'VE GOT THIS COOL ENERGY SHIELD THAT--
KRRR

THE KRESH!

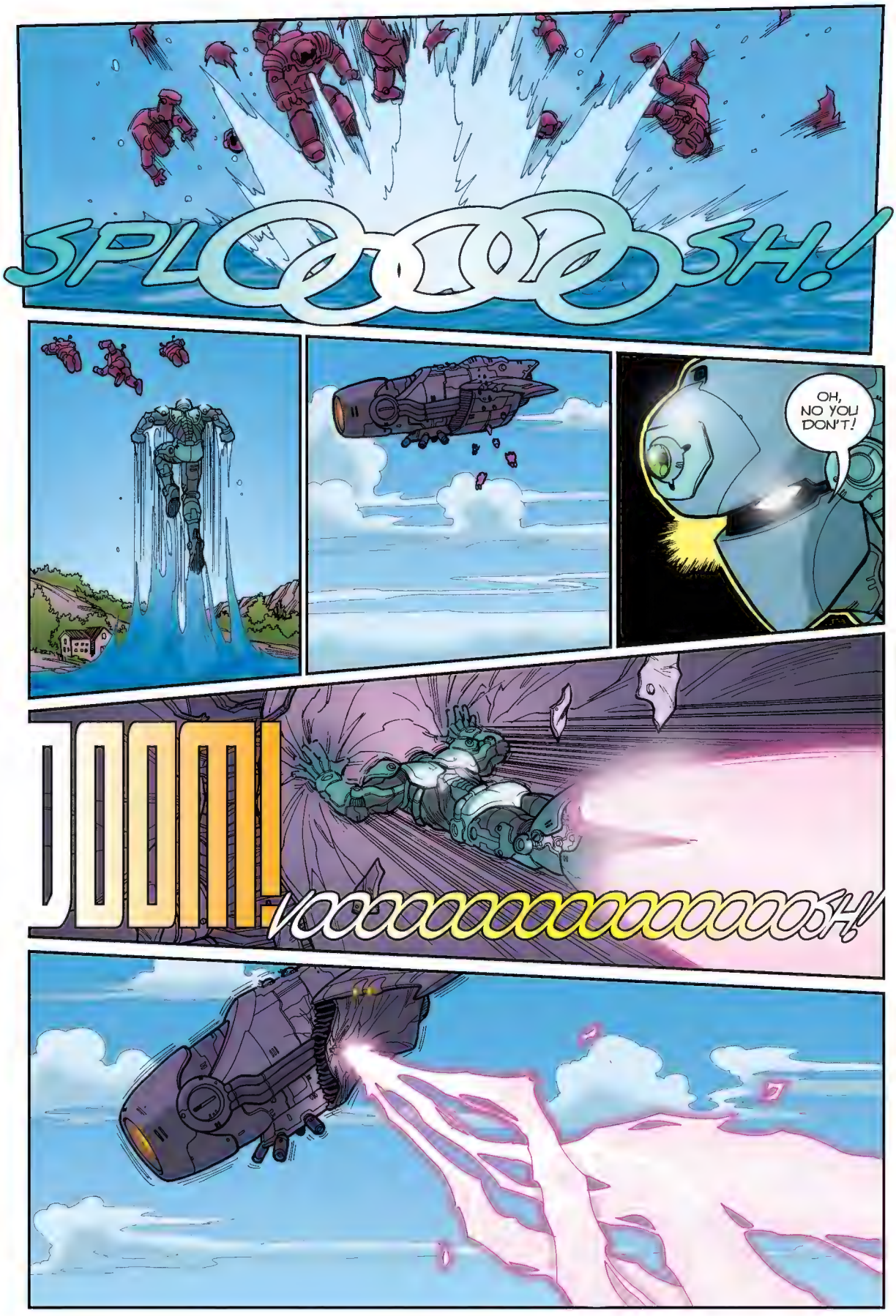
DAD, LOOK OUT!
BOOM!
BOOM!
HOLD ON TIGHT!
UNAACT!
O--OKAY!
YOU GONNA BE OKAY?
SON... I THINK THAT'S UP TO YOU!
SCRAGG!

S--SO... THESE ARE THE GUYS YOU FOUGHT ON GELDARIUS?
GELDARIA.
AND YES...
SOME OF THEM SURVIVED THE BATTLE ON GELDARIA. I GUESS THEY SOMEHOW TRACKED ME HERE.
YOU MEAN THERE WERE MORE OF THEM?!
UM...
...YEAH.

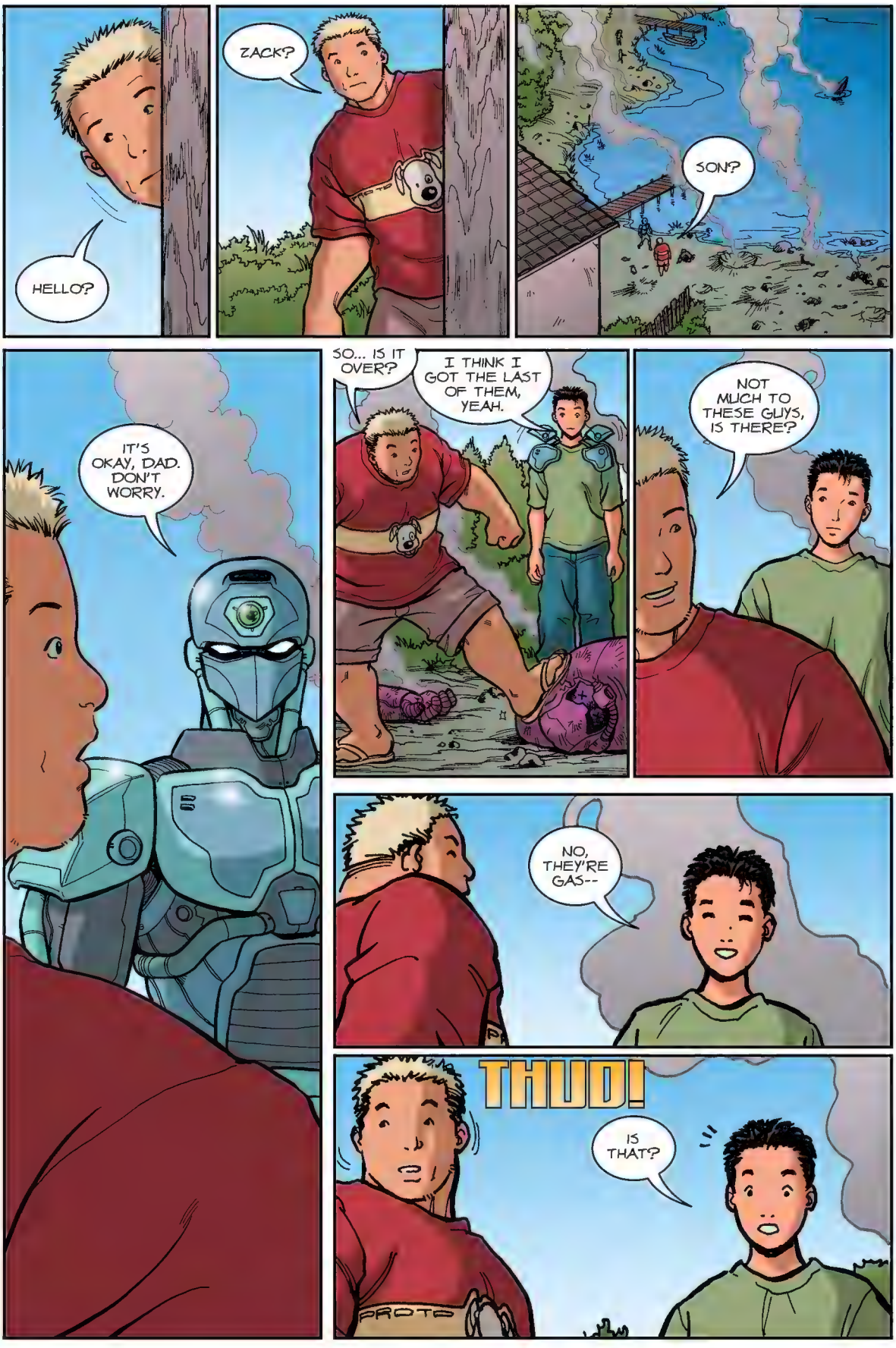
DAD?
Y--YEAH?
BRACE YOURSELF.
ALRIGHT.
SKRASH!
SKRAGG!

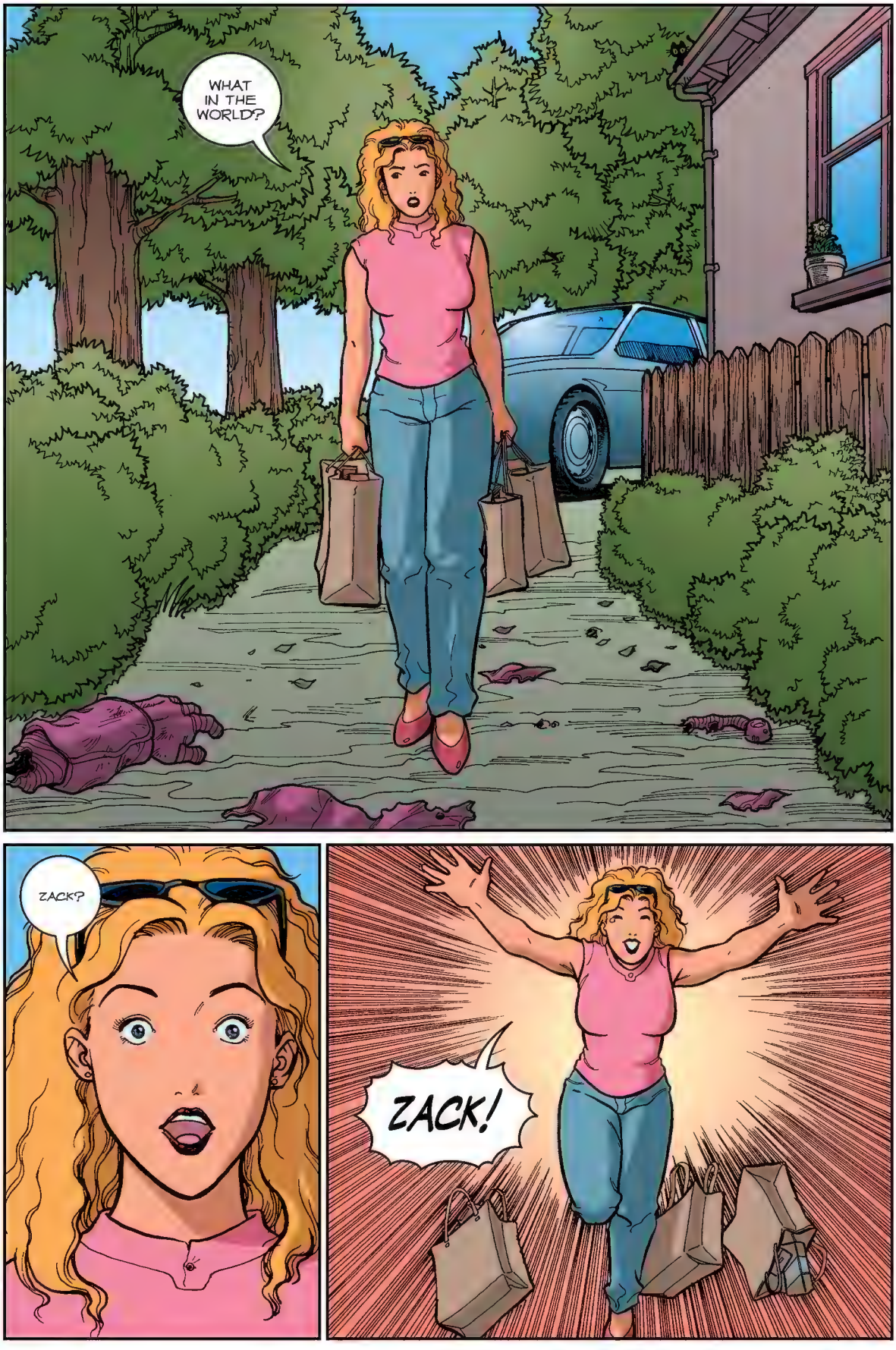
I THINK THEY ONLY WANT ME. ANY DAMAGE THEY'RE DOING SEEMS TO BE DIRECTED AT ME INITIALLY.
AS LONG AS YOU STAY AWAY FROM ME, YOU SHOULD BE FINE.
SOUNDS GO TO ME.
RUN!
HUFF! HUFF! HUFF!

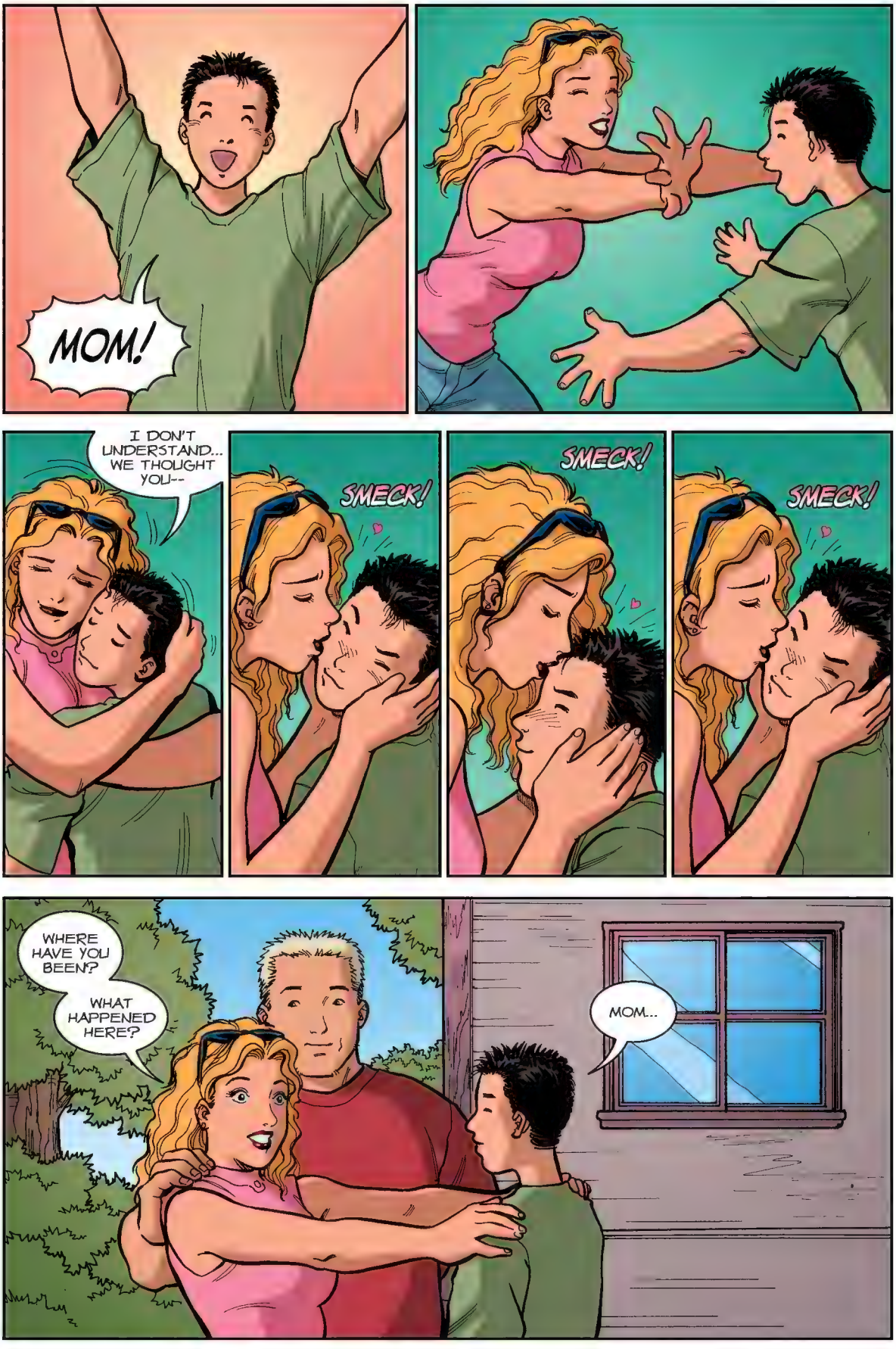
VZAP!
VZAP!
BAASH!!
SPLOOOOSH!


SPLOOOOSH!
OH, NO YOU DON'T!
VOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOSH!

GOOD RIDDANCE.


HELLO?
ZACK?
SON?
IT'S OKAY, DAD. DON'T WORRY.
SO... IS IT OVER?
I THINK I GOT THE LAST OF THEM, YEAH.
NOT MUCH TO THESE GUYS, IS THERE?
NO, THEY'RE GAS--
THUD!
IS THAT?
PROTO

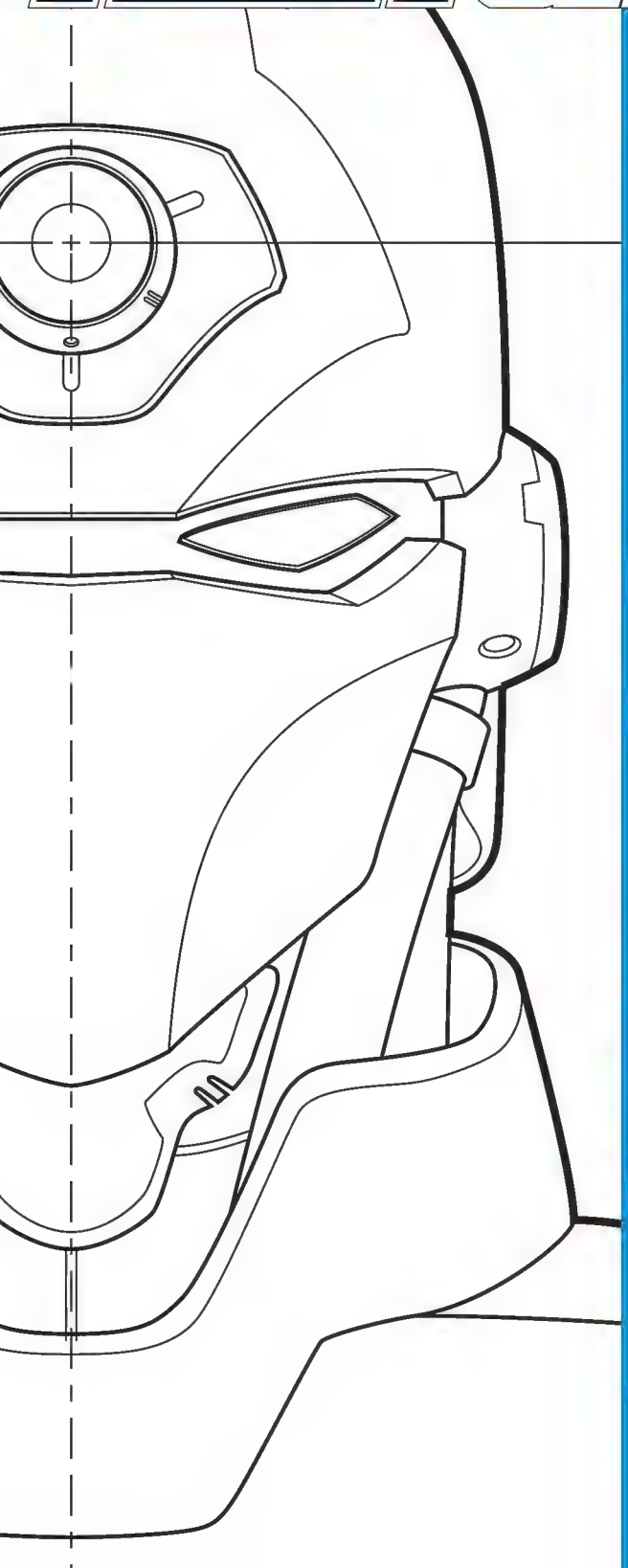

WHAT IN THE WORLD?
ZACK?
ZACK!


MOM!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND... WE THOUGHT YOU--
SMECK!
SMECK!
SMECK!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
MOM...

...WE'VE GOT A LOT TO TALK ABOUT.

ROBERT KIRKMAN • AUBREY SITTERSON • E.J. SU
TECH JACKET
image
SKYBOUND
7

TECH JACKET™



ROBERT KIRKMAN
AUBREY SITTERSON
writers

E.J. SU
penciler, inker

RON RILEY
colorist

RUS WOOTON
letterer

Cover by
E.J. SU

Created by
Robert Kirkman & E.J. Su

image

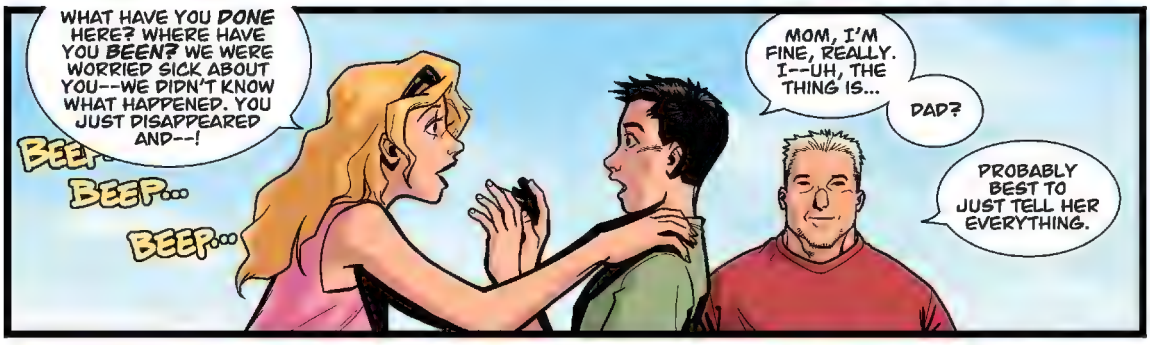
IMAGE COMICS, INC
Robert Kirkman Chief Operating Officer
Erik Larsen Chief Financial Officer
Todd McFarlane President
Marc Silvestri Chief Executive Officer
Jim Valentino Vice President
Eric Stephenson Publisher
Ron Richards Director of Business Development
Jennifer de Guzman Director of Trade Book Sales
Kat Salazar PR & Marketing Coordinator
Jeremy Sullivan Digital Marketing Coordinator
Jamie Parrera Online Marketing Coordinator
Emilio Bautista Sales Assistant
Branwyn Bigglestone Senior Accounts Manager
Emily Miller Accounts Manager
Jeanie Dudas Administrative Assistant
Tyler Shainline Events Coordinator
David Brothers Content Manager
Jonathan Chan Production Manager
Drew Gill Art Director
Meredith Wallace Print Manager
Monica Garcia Senior Production Artist
Jenna Savage Production Artist
Addison Duke Production Artist
IMAGECOMICS.COM

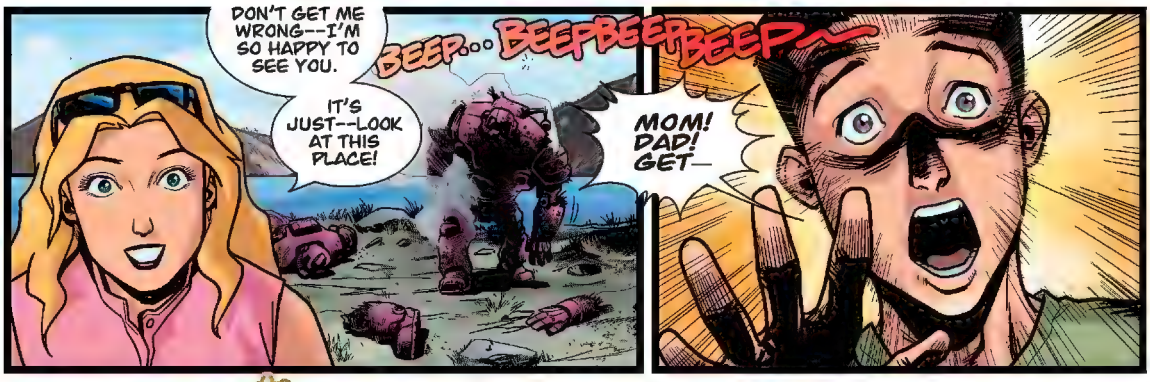
SKYBOUND
Robert Kirkman CEO
JJ Didde President
Sean Mackiewicz Editorial Director
Shawn Kirkham Director of Business Development
Brian Huntington Online Editorial Director
Helen Legh Office Manager
Feldman Public Relations LA Public Relations
For international rights inquiries, please contact: foreign@skybound.com
WWW.SKYBOUND.COM

TECH JACKET #7. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2001 Center Street, Sixth Floor, Berkeley, California 94704.

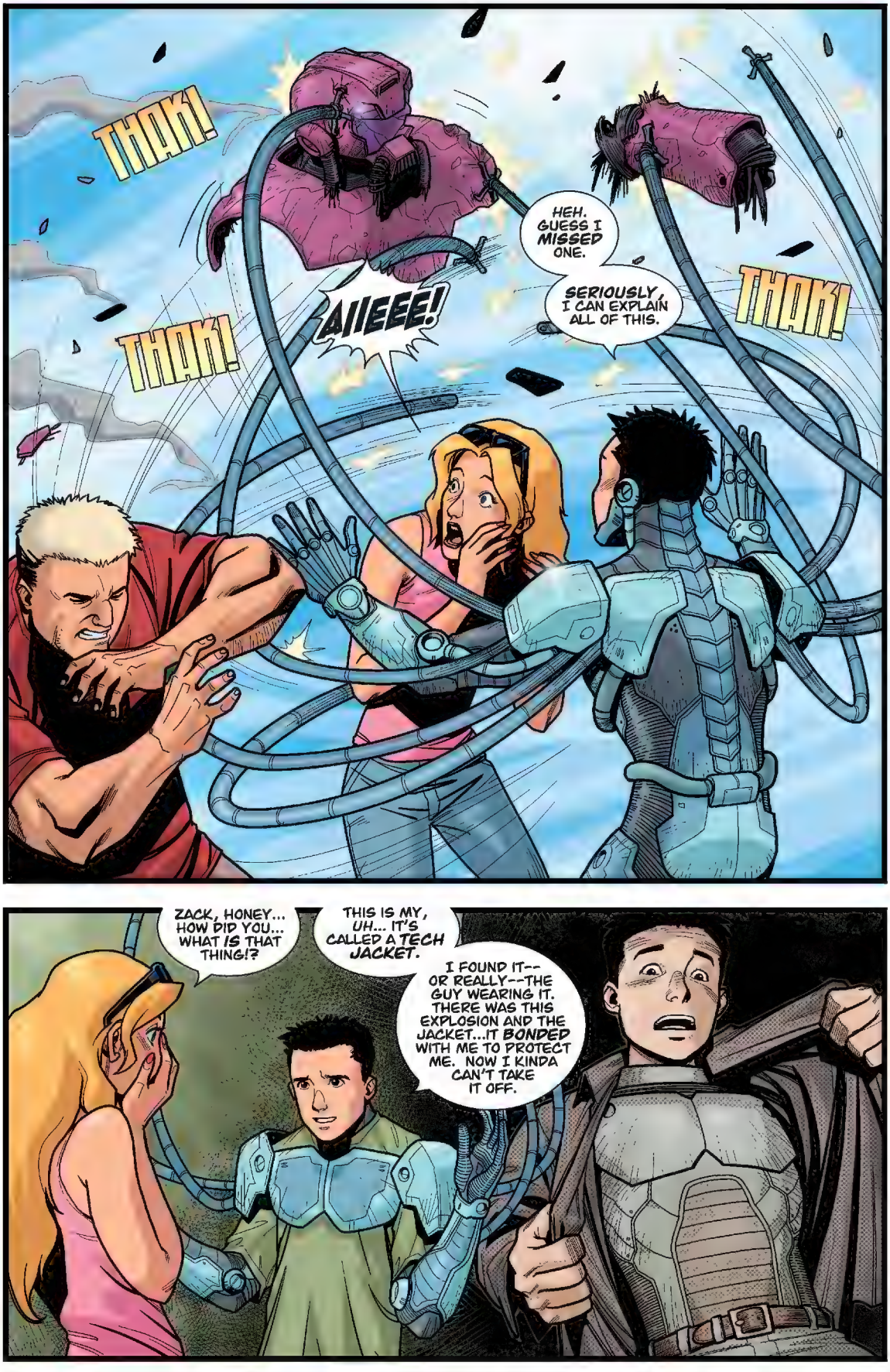
Copyright © 2013 Robert Kirkman, LLC and E.J. Su. All rights reserved. TECH JACKET™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® is a trademark of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. DIGITAL EDITION.

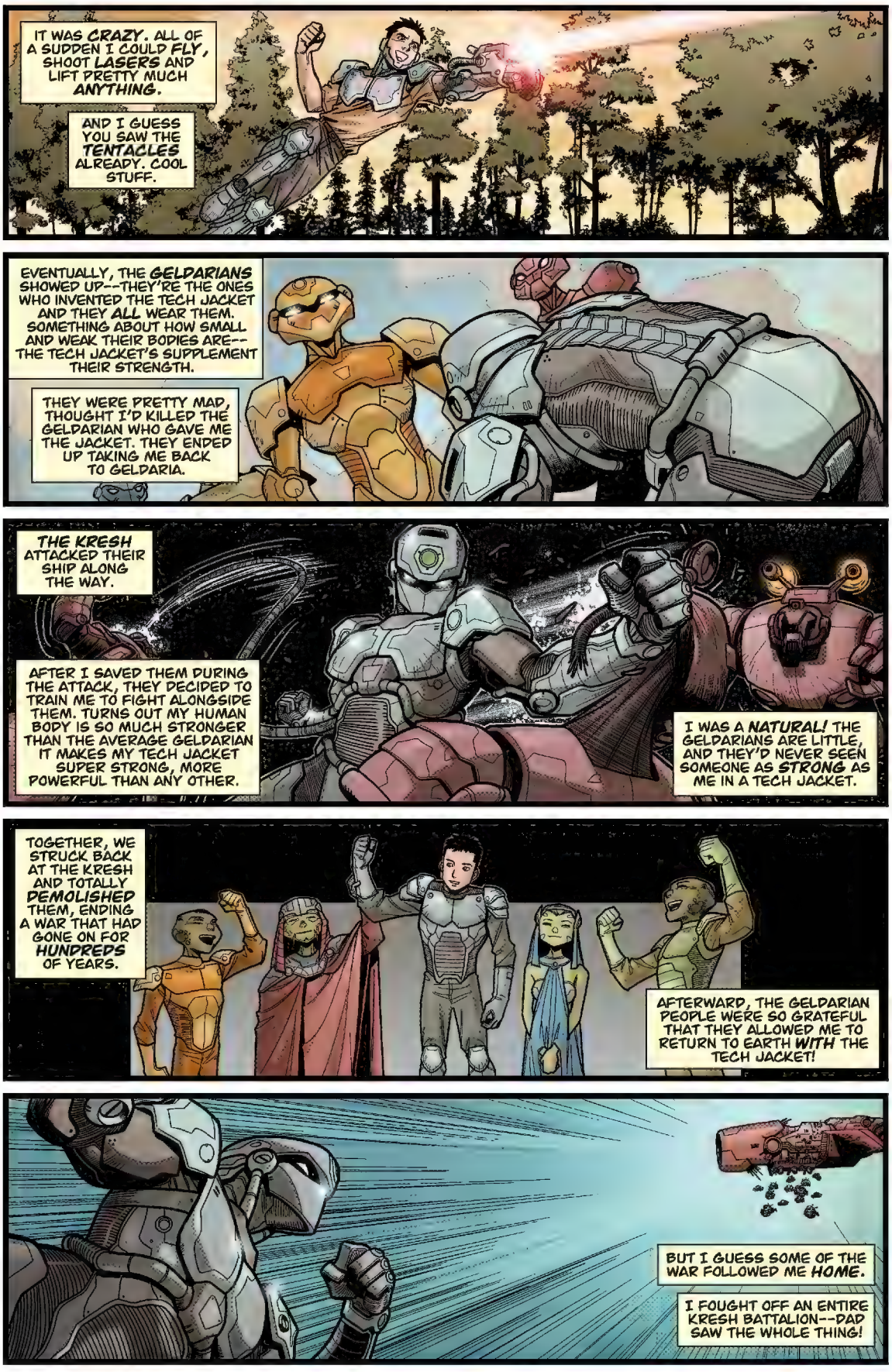
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO, ZACK!
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?!

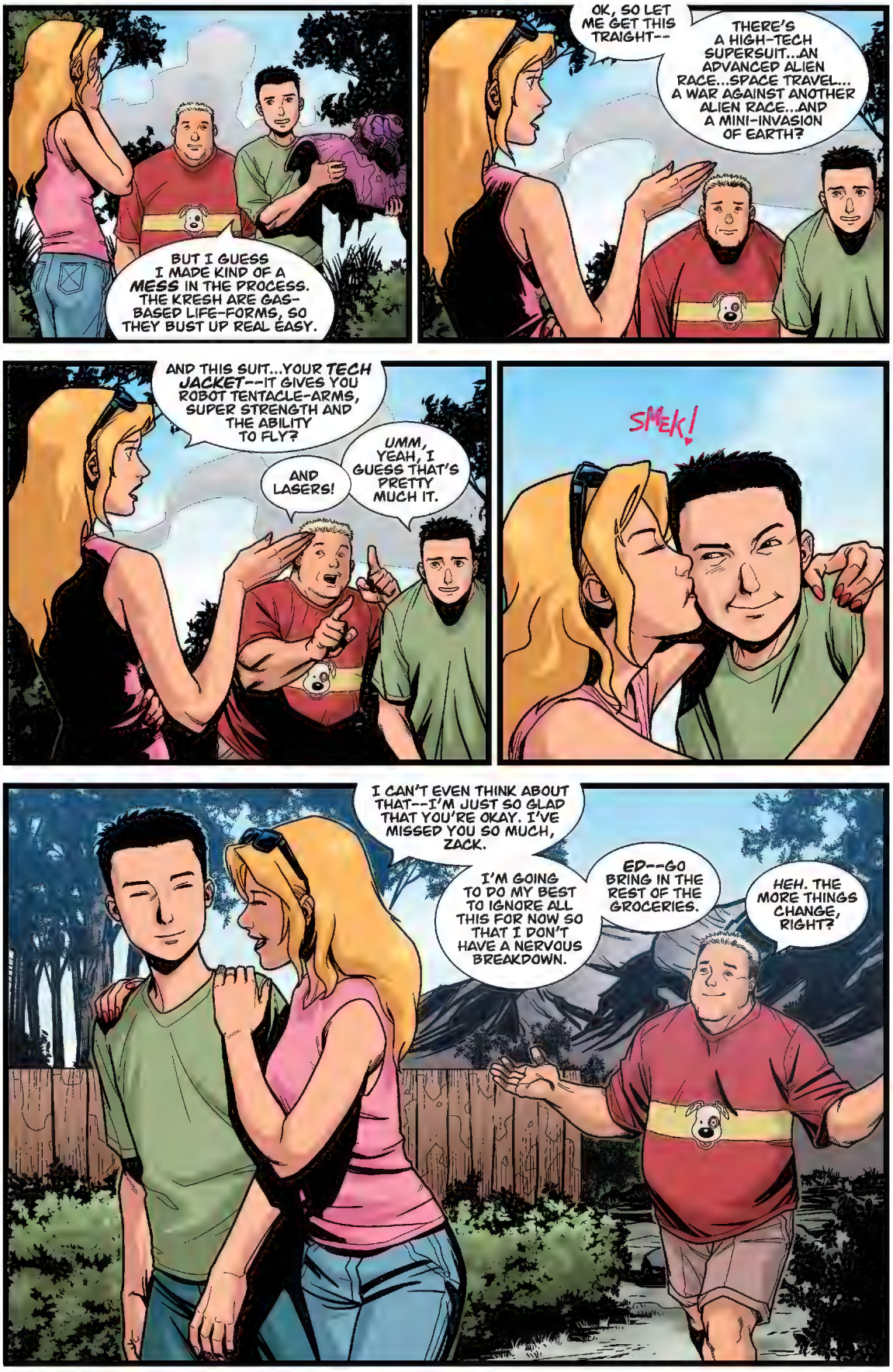

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE HERE? WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? WE WERE WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU--WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. YOU JUST DISAPPEARED AND--!
BEEP...
BEEP...
BEEP...
MOM, I'M FINE, REALLY. I--UH, THE THING IS...
DAD?
PROBABLY BEST TO JUST TELL HER EVERYTHING.

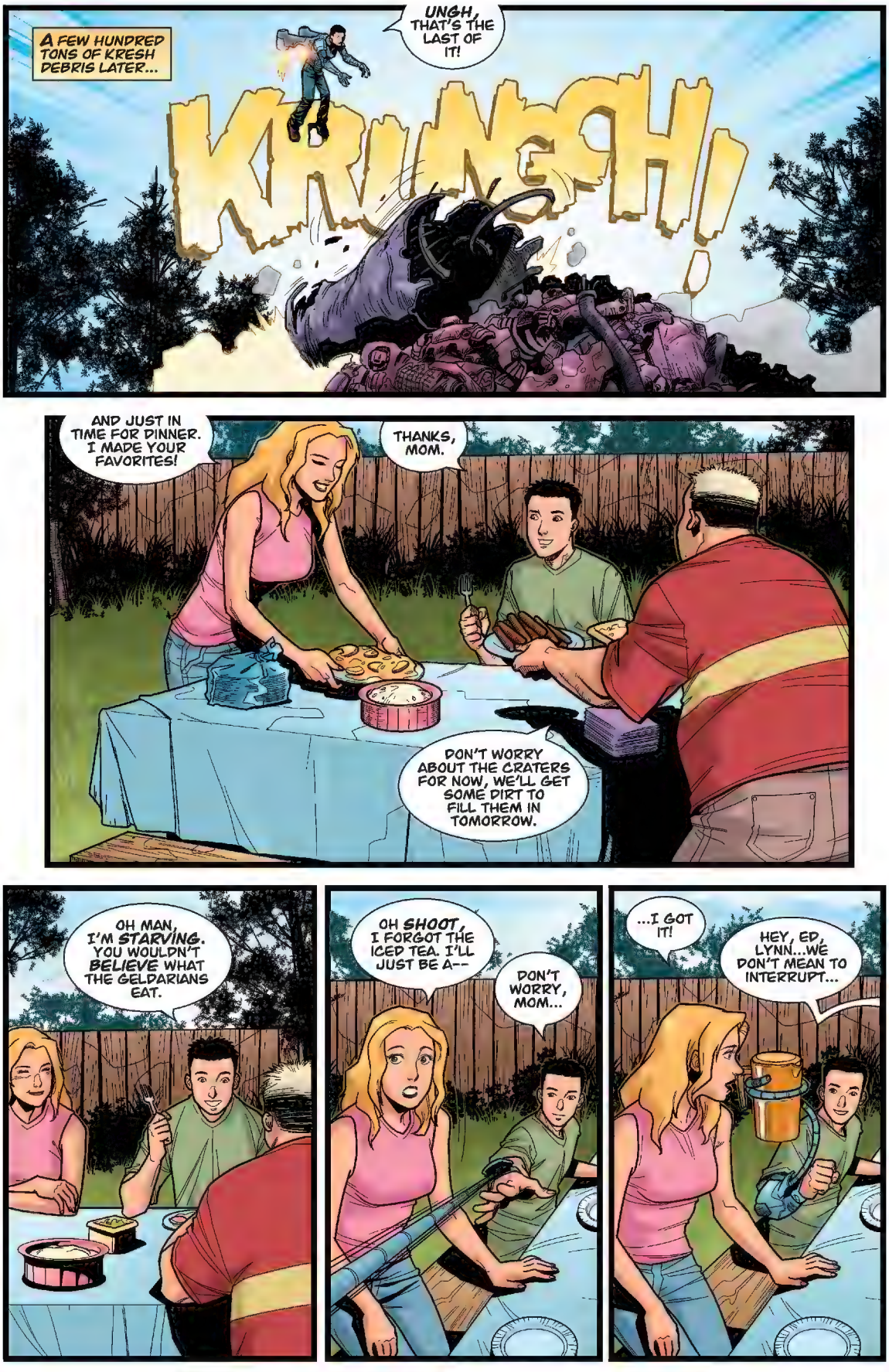

DON'T GET ME WRONG--I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU.
IT'S JUST--LOOK AT THIS PLACE!
BEEP... BEEPBEEPBEEP~
MOM! DAD! GET—

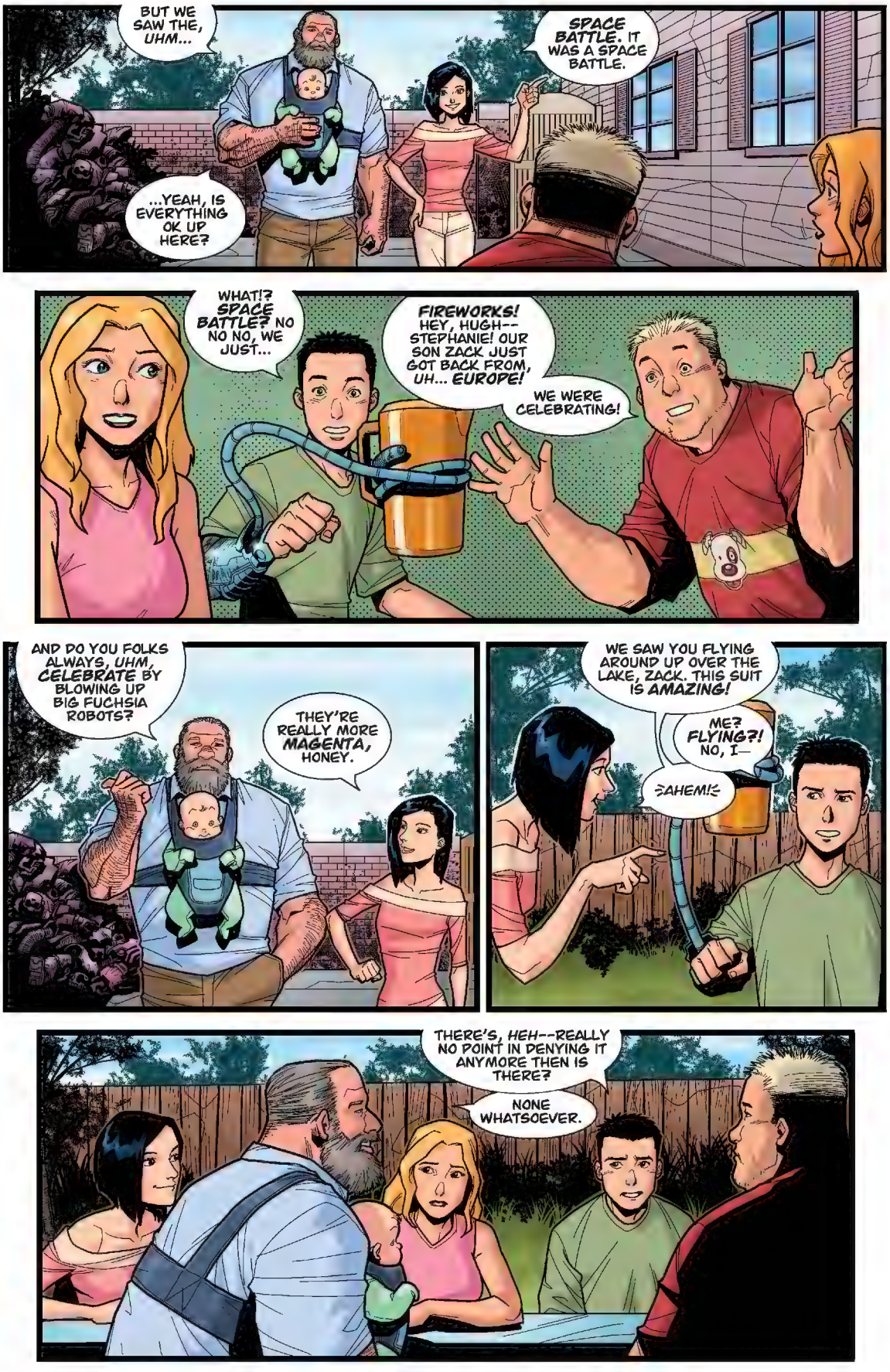
FROM

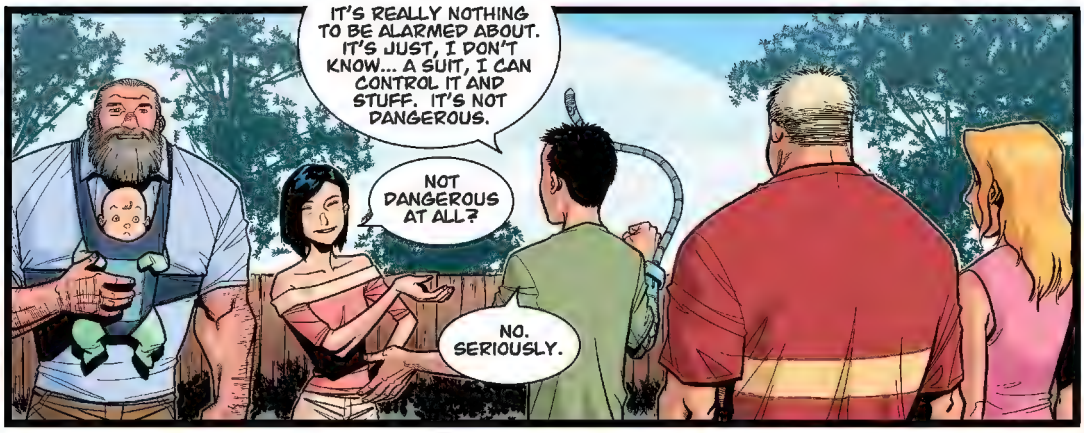

THAK!
THAK!
AIIEEE!
HEH. GUESS I MISSED ONE.
SERIOUSLY, I CAN EXPLAIN ALL OF THIS.
THAK!
ZACK, HONEY... HOW DID YOU... WHAT IS THAT THING!?
THIS IS MY, UH... IT'S CALLED A TECH JACKET.
I FOUND IT-- OR REALLY--THE GUY WEARING IT. THERE WAS THIS EXPLOSION AND THE JACKET...IT BONDED WITH ME TO PROTECT ME. NOW I KINDA CAN'T TAKE IT OFF.


IT WAS CRAZY. ALL OF A SUDDEN I COULD FLY, SHOOT LASERS AND LIFT PRETTY MUCH ANYTHING.
AND I GUESS YOU SAW THE TENTACLES ALREADY. COOL STUFF.
EVENTUALLY, THE GELDARIANS SHOWED UP--THEY'RE THE ONES WHO INVENTED THE TECH JACKET AND THEY ALL WEAR THEM. SOMETHING ABOUT HOW SMALL AND WEAK THEIR BODIES ARE--THE TECH JACKET'S SUPPLEMENT THEIR STRENGTH.
THEY WERE PRETTY MAD, THOUGHT I'D KILLED THE GELDARIAN WHO GAVE ME THE JACKET. THEY ENDED UP TAKING ME BACK TO GELDARIA.
THE KRESH ATTACKED THEIR SHIP ALONG THE WAY.
AFTER I SAVED THEM DURING THE ATTACK, THEY DECIDED TO TRAIN ME TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE THEM. TURNS OUT MY HUMAN BODY IS SO MUCH STRONGER THAN THE AVERAGE GELDARIAN IT MAKES MY TECH JACKET SUPER STRONG, MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY OTHER.
I WAS A NATURAL! THE GELDARIANS ARE LITTLE, AND THEY'D NEVER SEEN SOMEONE AS STRONG AS ME IN A TECH JACKET.
TOGETHER, WE STRUCK BACK AT THE KRESH AND TOTALLY DEMOLISHED THEM, ENDING A WAR THAT HAD GONE ON FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.
AFTERWARD, THE GELDARIAN PEOPLE WERE SO GRATEFUL THAT THEY ALLOWED ME TO RETURN TO EARTH WITH THE TECH JACKET!
BUT I GUESS SOME OF THE WAR FOLLOWED ME HOME.
I FOUGHT OFF AN ENTIRE KRESH BATTALION--DAD SAW THE WHOLE THING!

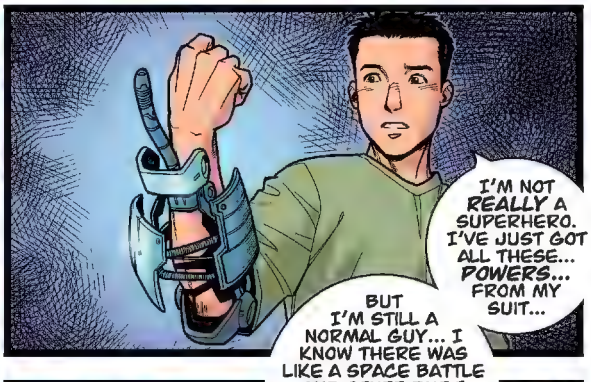

BUT I GUESS I MADE KIND OF A MESS IN THE PROCESS. THE KRESH ARE GAS-BASED LIFE-FORMS, SO THEY BUST UP REAL EASY.
OK, SO LET ME GET THIS TRAIGHT--
THERE'S A HIGH-TECH SUPERSUIT...AN ADVANCED ALIEN RACE...SPACE TRAVEL... A WAR AGAINST ANOTHER ALIEN RACE...AND A MINI-INVASION OF EARTH?
AND THIS SUIT...YOUR TECH JACKET--IT GIVES YOU ROBOT TENTACLE-ARMS, SUPER STRENGTH AND THE ABILITY TO FLY?
AND LASERS!
UMM, YEAH, I GUESS THAT'S PRETTY MUCH IT.
SMEK!
I CAN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT THAT--I'M JUST SO GLAD THAT YOU'RE OKAY. I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH, ZACK.
I'M GOING TO DO MY BEST TO IGNORE ALL THIS FOR NOW SO THAT I DON'T HAVE A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN.
ED--GO BRING IN THE REST OF THE GROCERIES.
HEH. THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, RIGHT?

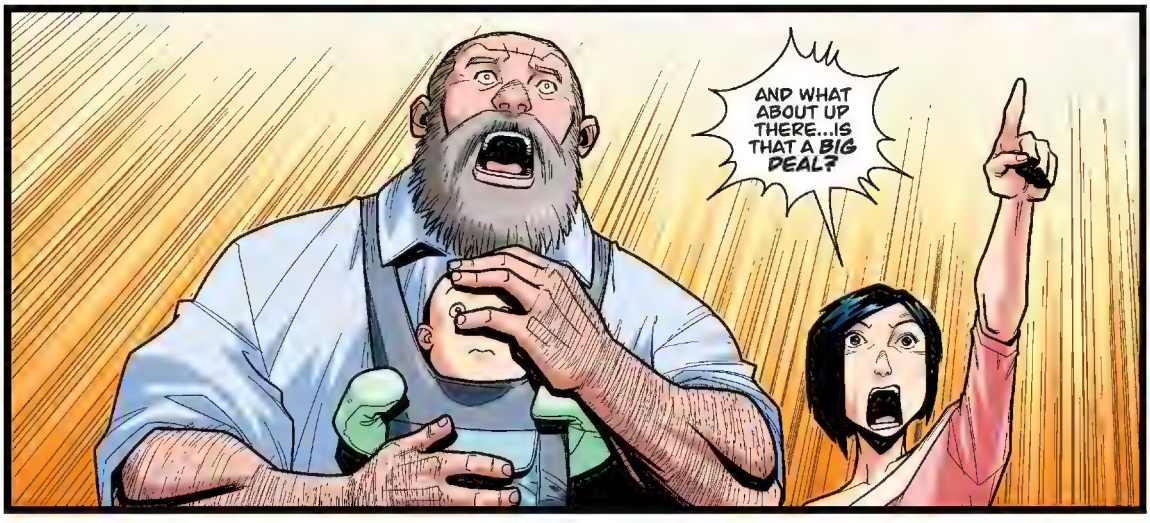

A FEW HUNDRED TONS OF KRESH DEBRIS LATER...
UNGH, THAT'S THE LAST OF IT!
KRUNCH!
AND JUST IN TIME FOR DINNER. I MADE YOUR FAVORITES!
THANKS, MOM.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE CRATERS FOR NOW, WE'LL GET SOME DIRT TO FILL THEM IN TOMORROW.
OH MAN, I'M STARVING. YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT THE GELDARIANS EAT.
OH SHOOT, I FORGOT THE ICED TEA. I'LL JUST BE A--
DON'T WORRY, MOM...
...I GOT IT!
HEY, ED, LYNN...WE DON'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT...


BUT WE SAW THE, UHM...
...YEAH, IS EVERYTHING OK UP HERE?
SPACE BATTLE. IT WAS A SPACE BATTLE.
WHAT!? SPACE BATTLE? NO NO NO, WE JUST...
FIREWORKS! HEY, HUGH--STEPHANIE! OUR SON ZACK JUST GOT BACK FROM, UH... EUROPE!
WE WERE CELEBRATING!
AND DO YOU FOLKS ALWAYS, UHM, CELEBRATE BY BLOWING UP BIG FUCHSIA ROBOTS?
THEY'RE REALLY MORE MAGENTA, HONEY.
WE SAW YOU FLYING AROUND UP OVER THE LAKE, ZACK. THIS SUIT IS AMAZING!
ME? FLYING?! NO, I—
=AHEM!=
THERE'S, HEH--REALLY NO POINT IN DENYING IT ANYMORE THEN IS THERE?
NONE WHATSOEVER.


IT'S REALLY NOTHING TO BE ALARMED ABOUT. IT'S JUST, I DON'T KNOW... A SUIT, I CAN CONTROL IT AND STUFF. IT'S NOT DANGEROUS.
NOT DANGEROUS AT ALL?
NO. SERIOUSLY.

ARE WE GOING TO BE HAVING MORE OF THESE ALIEN SPACE BATTLES OVER THE LAKE?
NO, UH... AND THAT WASN'T MY FAULT EXACTLY. NOT REALLY.
DO YOU KNOW THE OTHER SUPERHEROES? WHAT'S DUPLI-KATE LIKE?

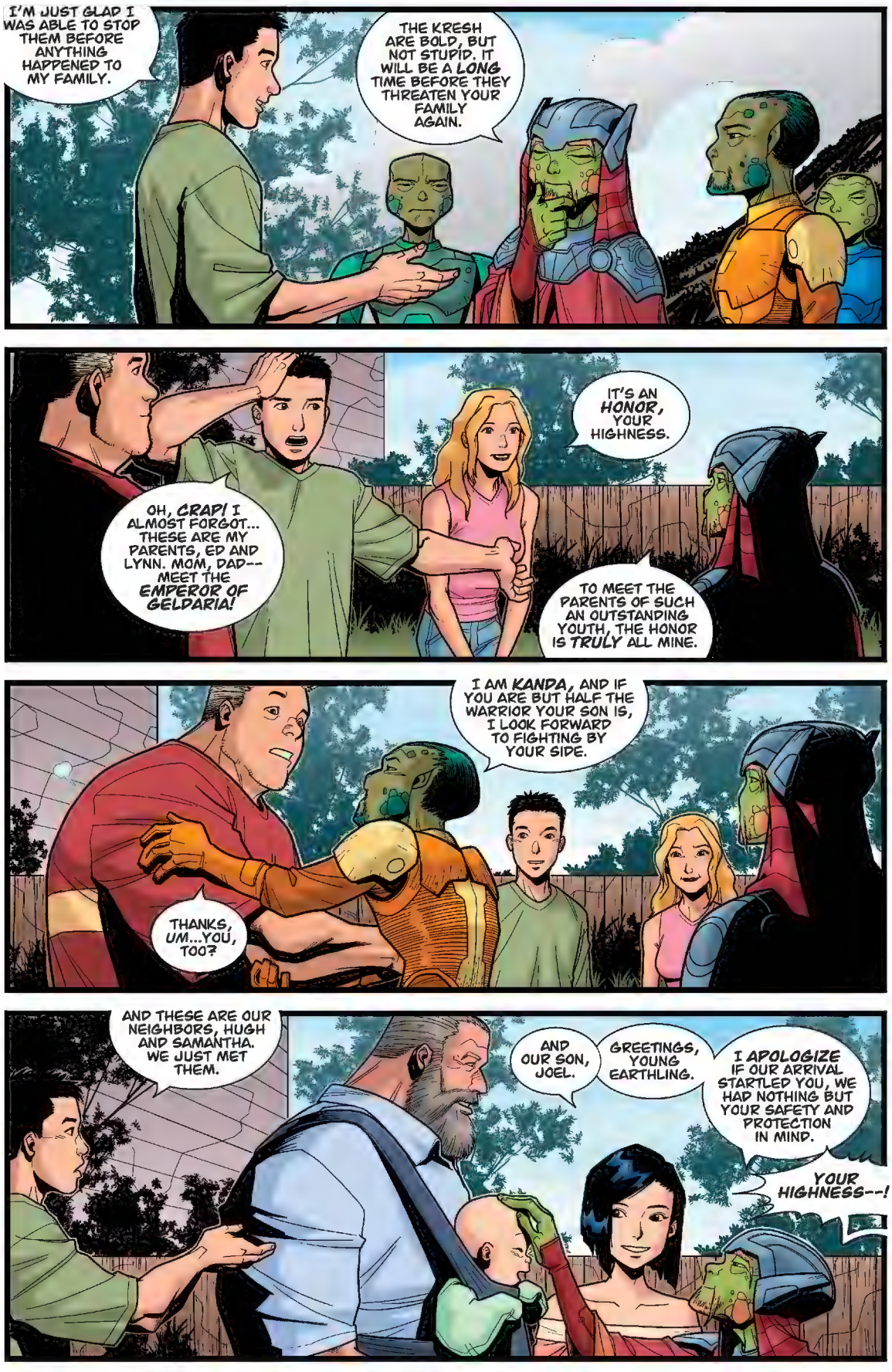

I'M NOT REALLY A SUPERHERO. I'VE JUST GOT ALL THESE... POWERS... FROM MY SUIT...
BUT I'M STILL A NORMAL GUY... I KNOW THERE WAS LIKE A SPACE BATTLE AND STUFF BUT I REALLY HAVE IT UNDER CONTROL, AND THIS REALLY DOESN'T NEED TO BE A BIG DEAL.


AND WHAT ABOUT UP THERE...IS THAT A BIG DEAL?

OH... THAT...

CRAP, I HOPE THAT'S THE GOOD GUYS...

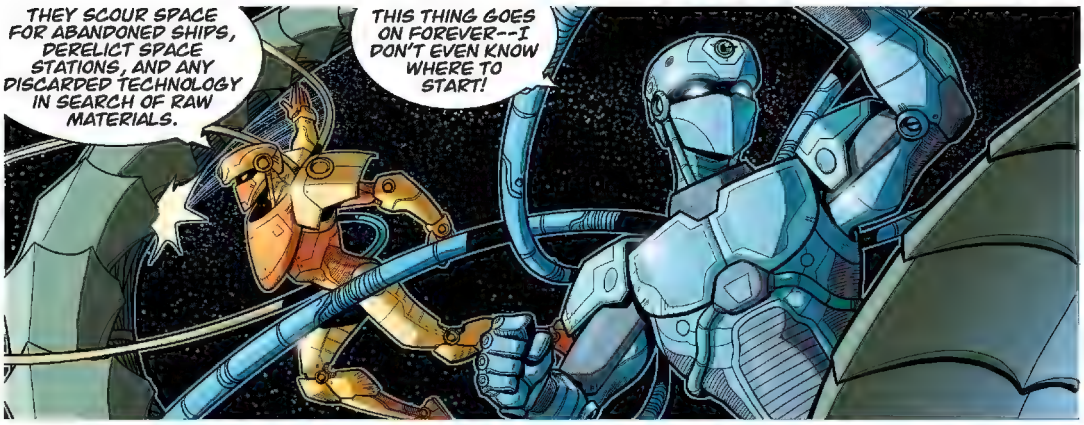
WELL, THEY'RE NOT SHOOTING, UH... SHOULD WE GO? I'M REALLY KIND OF WORRIED.
ZACK!
GOOD GUYS! IT'S THE GOOD GUYS.
WE CAME AS QUICKLY AS WE COULD. ONCE YOU LEFT WE DETECTED THE REMAINS OF THE KRESH ARMY FOLLOWING YOUR SHUTTLE TO EARTH WE SCRAMBLED OUR ARMY AND CAME TO HELP.
I APOLOGIZE THAT OUR CONFLICT FOUND ITS WAY TO YOUR PLANET.
ARE THESE... FRIENDS OF YOURS, ZACK?
WE ARE MUCH MORE THAN FRIENDS. WE ARE FOREVER INDEBTED TO ZACK FOR SAVING OUR CIVILIZATION.
WE OWE NOTHING LESS THAN OUR CONTINUED EXISTENCE TO ZACK.
NOT LONG AGO WE INTERCEPTED A KRESH COMMUNICATION. THEY PLANNED TO STRIKE BACK FOR THE ROLE YOU PLAYED IN THEIR DEFEAT.
WE MOBILIZED OUR BEST TROOPS AND SET A COURSE FOR EARTH.
WE WERE WORRIED WE WOULD NOT ARRIVE IN TIME, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE ALREADY HANDLED THIS WOULD-BE INVASION.
YEAH, I KIND OF WIPED THE FLOOR WITH THEM. I THINK THEY WERE KIND OF BANGED UP FROM THE BATTLE ON GELDARIA.

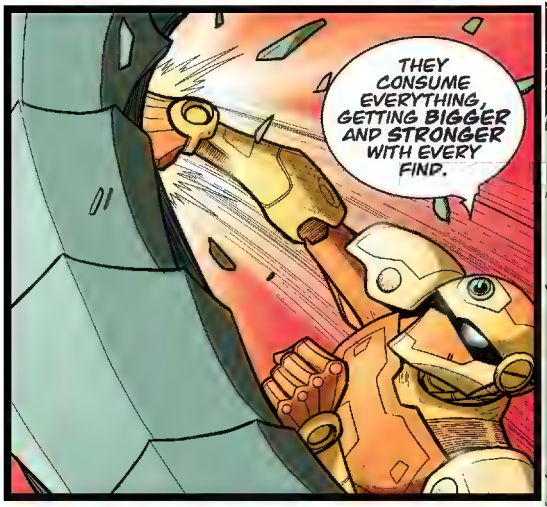

I'M JUST GLAD I WAS ABLE TO STOP THEM BEFORE ANYTHING HAPPENED TO MY FAMILY.
THE KRESH ARE BOLD, BUT NOT STUPID. IT WILL BE A LONG TIME BEFORE THEY THREATEN YOUR FAMILY AGAIN.
OH, CRAP! I ALMOST FORGOT... THESE ARE MY PARENTS, ED AND LYNN. MOM, DAD-- MEET THE EMPEROR OF GELDARIA!
IT'S AN HONOR, YOUR HIGHNESS.
TO MEET THE PARENTS OF SUCH AN OUTSTANDING YOUTH, THE HONOR IS TRULY ALL MINE.
I AM KANDA, AND IF YOU ARE BUT HALF THE WARRIOR YOUR SON IS, I LOOK FORWARD TO FIGHTING BY YOUR SIDE.
THANKS, UM...YOU, TOO?
AND THESE ARE OUR NEIGHBORS, HUGH AND SAMANTHA. WE JUST MET THEM.
AND OUR SON, JOEL.
GREETINGS, YOUNG EARTHLING.
I APOLOGIZE IF OUR ARRIVAL STARTLED YOU, WE HAD NOTHING BUT YOUR SAFETY AND PROTECTION IN MIND.
YOUR HIGHNESS--!

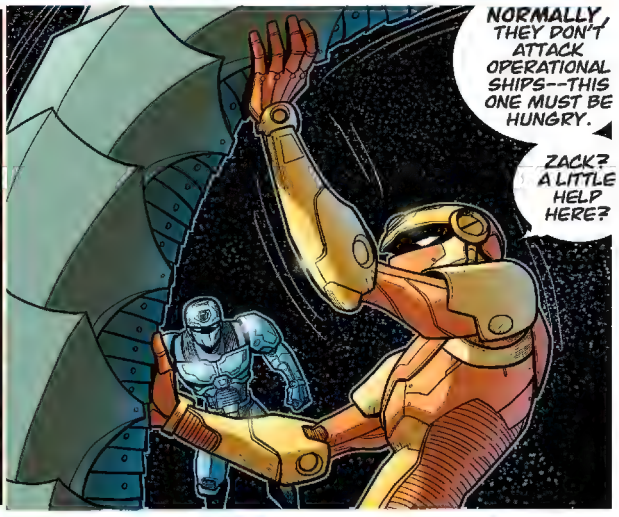
WE ARE UNCERTAIN WHAT HAS HAPPENED-- BUT WE'VE LOST COMMUNICATION WITH THE MOTHERSHIP IN ORBIT.
WHAT ABOUT LIN?!
WE DO NOT KNOW. WE CAN ONLY ASSUME SHE IS STILL ONBOARD, SIRE.
KANDA, TAKE MY HONORGUARD AND GO! PROTECT THE SHIP AND THE PRINCESS AT ALL COSTS!
YES, SIRE. WE WILL NOT FAIL YOU.
I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO GO... I SHOULD HELP.
IT'S KIND OF MY THING, NOW.

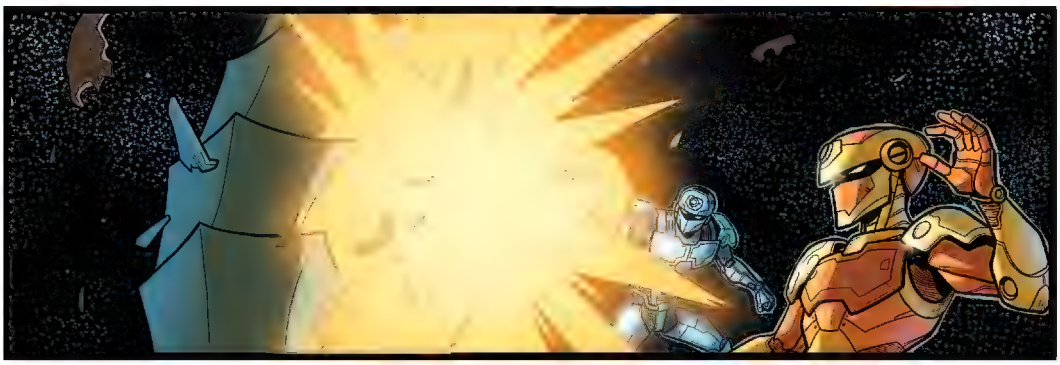
SO THIS IS MY LIFE NOW? I BARELY GET TO CATCH A BREATH AND SPEND SOME TIME WITH MY FOLKS BEFORE THE KRESH ATTACK--AND NOW THIS? I HOPE IT'S NOTHING TOO--
OOPH!
KANDA! WHAT'S HAPPENING!? ARE YOU OKAY!?
I AM FINE, ZACK. BUT IT IS WORSE THAN WE THOUGHT...
ACTIVATE YOUR DEFENSE ARRAY, THIS WILL NOT BE EASY. IT MUST HAVE DETECTED US DURING OUR TRIP AND FOLLOWED US HERE.
WHAT IS IT!?

IT'S CALLED A SCAVENGINE.

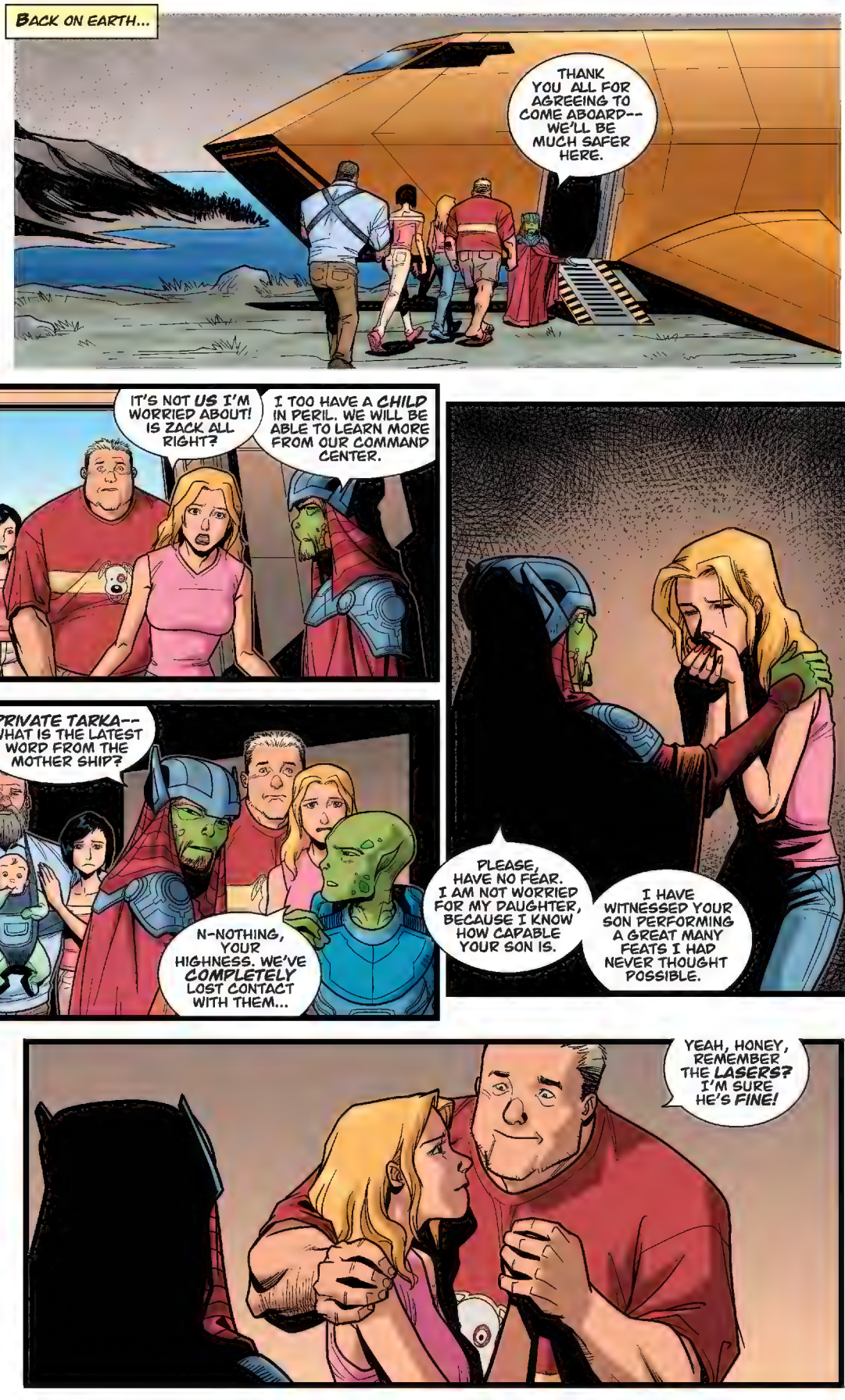

THEY SCOUR SPACE FOR ABANDONED SHIPS, DERELICT SPACE STATIONS, AND ANY DISCARDED TECHNOLOGY IN SEARCH OF RAW MATERIALS.
THIS THING GOES ON FOREVER--I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO START!


THEY CONSUME EVERYTHING, GETTING BIGGER AND STRONGER WITH EVERY FIND.


NORMALLY, THEY DON'T ATTACK OPERATIONAL SHIPS--THIS ONE MUST BE HUNGRY.
ZACK? A LITTLE HELP HERE?



SO HOW DO WE STOP IT?
I DON'T KNOW. NO ONE EVER HAS...


BACK ON EARTH...
THANK YOU ALL FOR AGREEING TO COME ABOARD-- WE'LL BE MUCH SAFER HERE.
IT'S NOT US I'M WORRIED ABOUT! IS ZACK ALL RIGHT?
I TOO HAVE A CHILD IN PERIL. WE WILL BE ABLE TO LEARN MORE FROM OUR COMMAND CENTER.
PRIVATE TARKA-- WHAT IS THE LATEST WORD FROM THE MOTHER SHIP?
N-NOTHING, YOUR HIGHNESS. WE'VE COMPLETELY LOST CONTACT WITH THEM...
PLEASE, HAVE NO FEAR. I AM NOT WORRIED FOR MY DAUGHTER, BECAUSE I KNOW HOW CAPABLE YOUR SON IS.
I HAVE WITNESSED YOUR SON PERFORMING A GREAT MANY FEATS I HAD NEVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE.
YEAH, HONEY, REMEMBER THE LASERS? I'M SURE HE'S FINE!

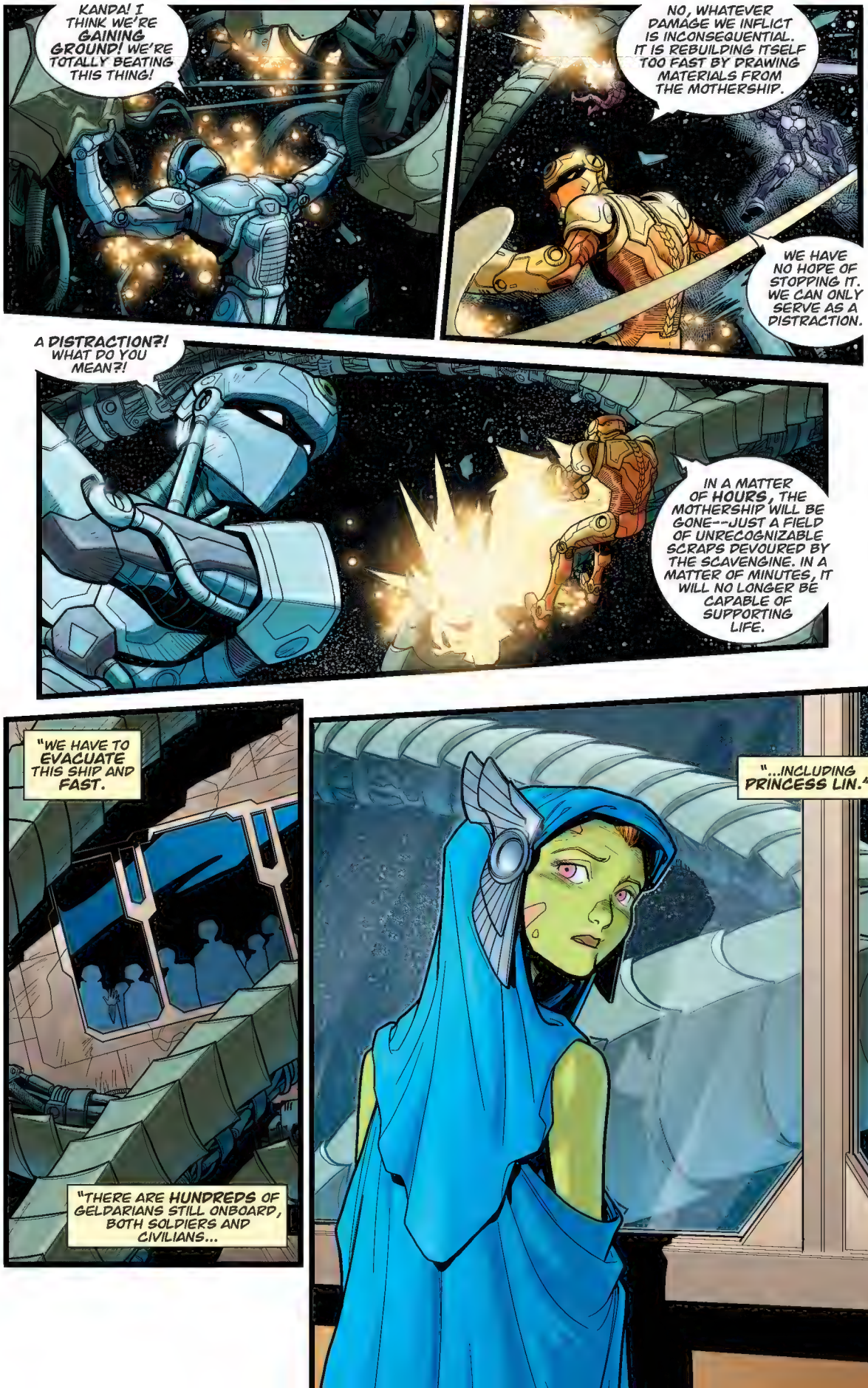
GRAAAAAH!
ZACK!

UNNNGH... NEVER BEEN HIT LIKE THAT...
ZACK, PLEASE! I AM IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE!
THE SOONER THE BETTER!
MANY THANKS.
WE NEED TO REGROUP AND START ATTACKING THIS THING STRATEGICALLY.
YEAH, COOL. YOU GET STARTED ON THAT. I'VE GOT ANOTHER IDEA...

BLASTER DEPLETING ENERGY RESERVES. CURRENT LEVEL: 60%.
THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH, RIGHT?! I'VE JUST GOT TO--
GRAHH!
STRUCTURAL DAMAGE SUSTAINED. REROUTING BLASTER POWER TO AUXILIARY SHIELDS.
OKAY, FINE-- A LITTLE CLOSE QUARTERS COMBAT NEVER HURT ANYONE. OF COURSE... YOU KIND OF JUST KEEP GOING AND GOING. I CAN BARELY TELL WHICH PART OF YOU I'M FIGHTING.
AND... UGH-- I'M SURE YOU'RE NOT EVEN LISTENING TO ME...
DAMAGE LEVEL INCREASING. STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY THREATENED. IMMEDIATE REPAIRS NECESSARY.

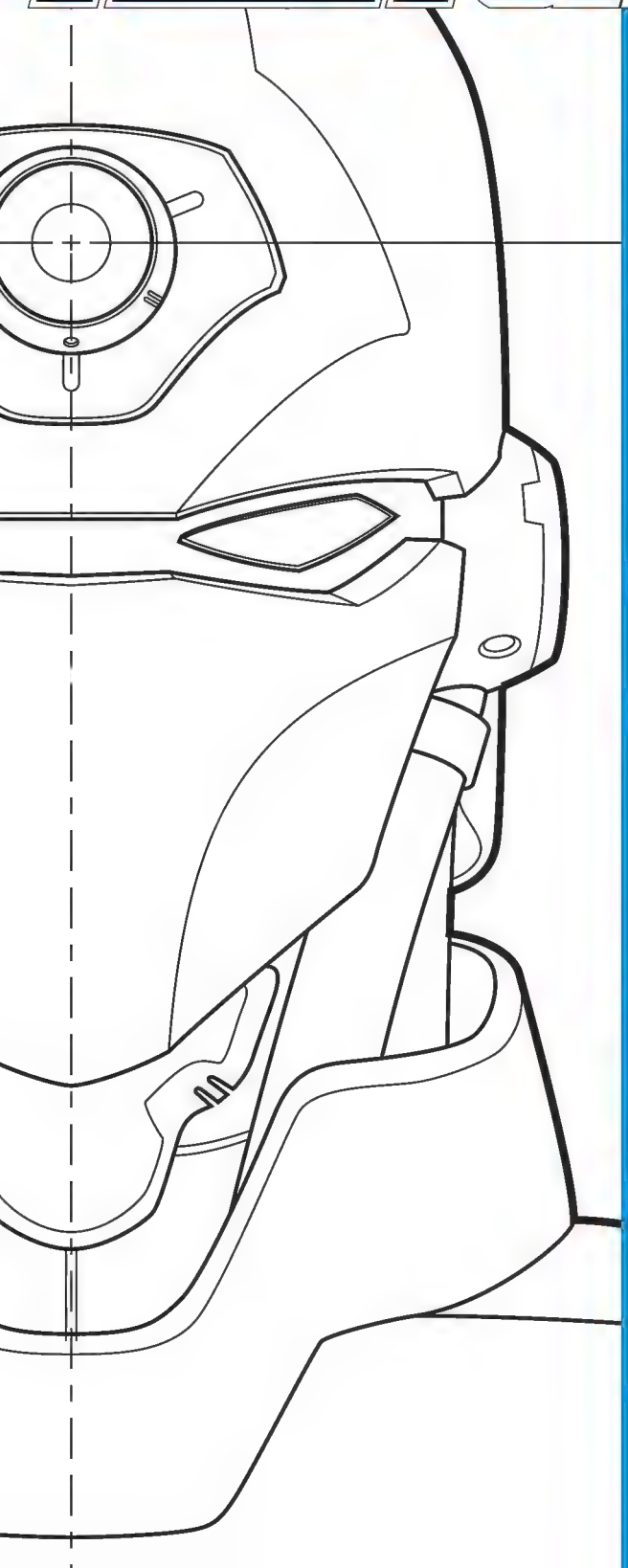
FOR GELDARIA!
SQUAD TWO--HELP ME FREE OUR ALLY!
ZACK! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
I... THINK SO...
COMMENCING REPAIR SEQUENCE.
YOU SHOULD PULL BACK-- REGAIN YOUR STRENGTH.
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT...

FIELD REPAIRS COMPLETE. SYSTEM BATTLE-READY.
...BUT THEN I'D MISS ALL THE FUN.
MAYBE THIS TIME, YOU WILL LET THE REST OF US SEE SOME ACTION, TOO.
YOU GOT IT, KANDA...
...THERE'S MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR ALL OF US.


KANDA! I THINK WE'RE GAINING GROUND! WE'RE TOTALLY BEATING THIS THING!
NO, WHATEVER DAMAGE WE INFLICT IS INCONSEQUENTIAL. IT IS REBUILDING ITSELF TOO FAST BY DRAWING MATERIALS FROM THE MOTHERSHIP.
WE HAVE NO HOPE OF STOPPING IT. WE CAN ONLY SERVE AS A DISTRACTION.
A DISTRACTION?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
IN A MATTER OF HOURS, THE MOTHERSHIP WILL BE GONE--JUST A FIELD OF UNRECOGNIZABLE SCRAPS DEVOURED BY THE SCAVENGINE. IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, IT WILL NO LONGER BE CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING LIFE.
"WE HAVE TO EVACUATE THIS SHIP AND FAST.
"THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF GELDARIANS STILL ONBOARD, BOTH SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS...
"...INCLUDING PRINCESS LIN."

ROBERT KIRKMAN • AUBREY SITTERSON • E.J. SU
TECH JACKET
image
SKYBOUND
8

TECH JACKET™



ROBERT KIRKMAN
AUBREY SITTERSON
writers

E.J. SU
penciler, inker

RON RILEY
colorist

RUS WOOTON
letterer

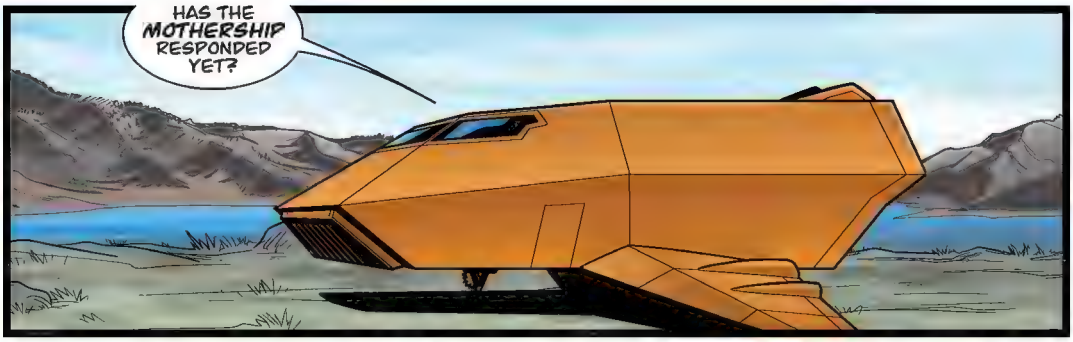
Cover by
E.J. SU

Created by
Robert Kirkman & E.J. Su

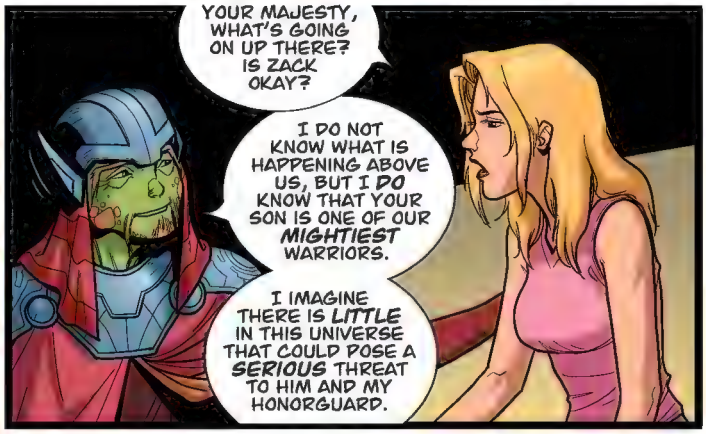
IMAGE COMICS, INC
Robert Kirkman Chief Operating Officer
Erik Larsen Chief Financial Officer
Todd McFarlane President
Marc Silvestri Chief Executive Officer
Jim Valentino Vice President
Eric Stephenson Publisher
Ron Richards Director of Business Development
Jennifer de Guzman Director of Trade Book Sales
Kat Salazar PR & Marketing Coordinator
Jeremy Sullivan Digital Marketing Coordinator
Jamie Parreira Online Marketing Coordinator
Emilio Bautista Sales Assistant
Branwyn Bigglestone Senior Accounts Manager
Emily Miller Accounts Manager
Jeanie Dudas Administrative Assistant
Tyler Shainline Events Coordinator
David Brothers Content Manager
Jonathan Chan Production Manager
Drew Gill Art Director
Meredith Wallace Print Manager
Monica Garcia Senior Production Artist
Jenna Savage Production Artist
Addison Duke Production Artist
IMAGECOMICS.COM

SKYBOUND
Robert Kirkman CEO
JJ Didde President
Sean Mackiewicz Editorial Director
Shawn Kirkham Director of Business Development
Brian Huntington Online Editorial Director
Helen Leigh Office Manager
Feldman Public Relations LA Public Relations
For international rights inquiries, please contact: foreign@skybound.com
WWW.SKYBOUND.COM

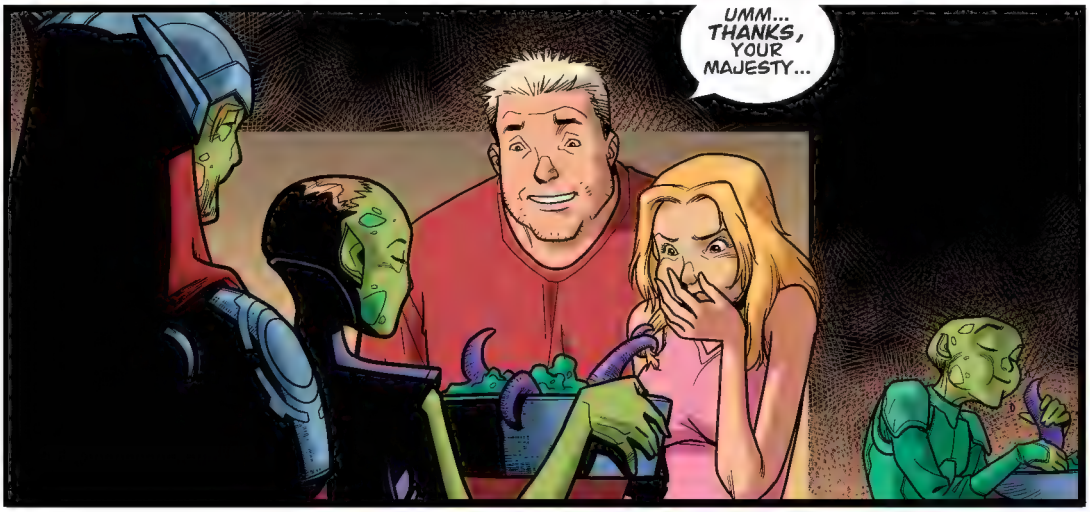
TECH JACKET #8. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2001 Center Street, Sixth Floor, Berkeley, California 94704. Copyright © 2013 Robert Kirkman, LLC and E.J. Su. All rights reserved. TECH JACKET™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® is a trademark of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. DIGITAL EDITION.

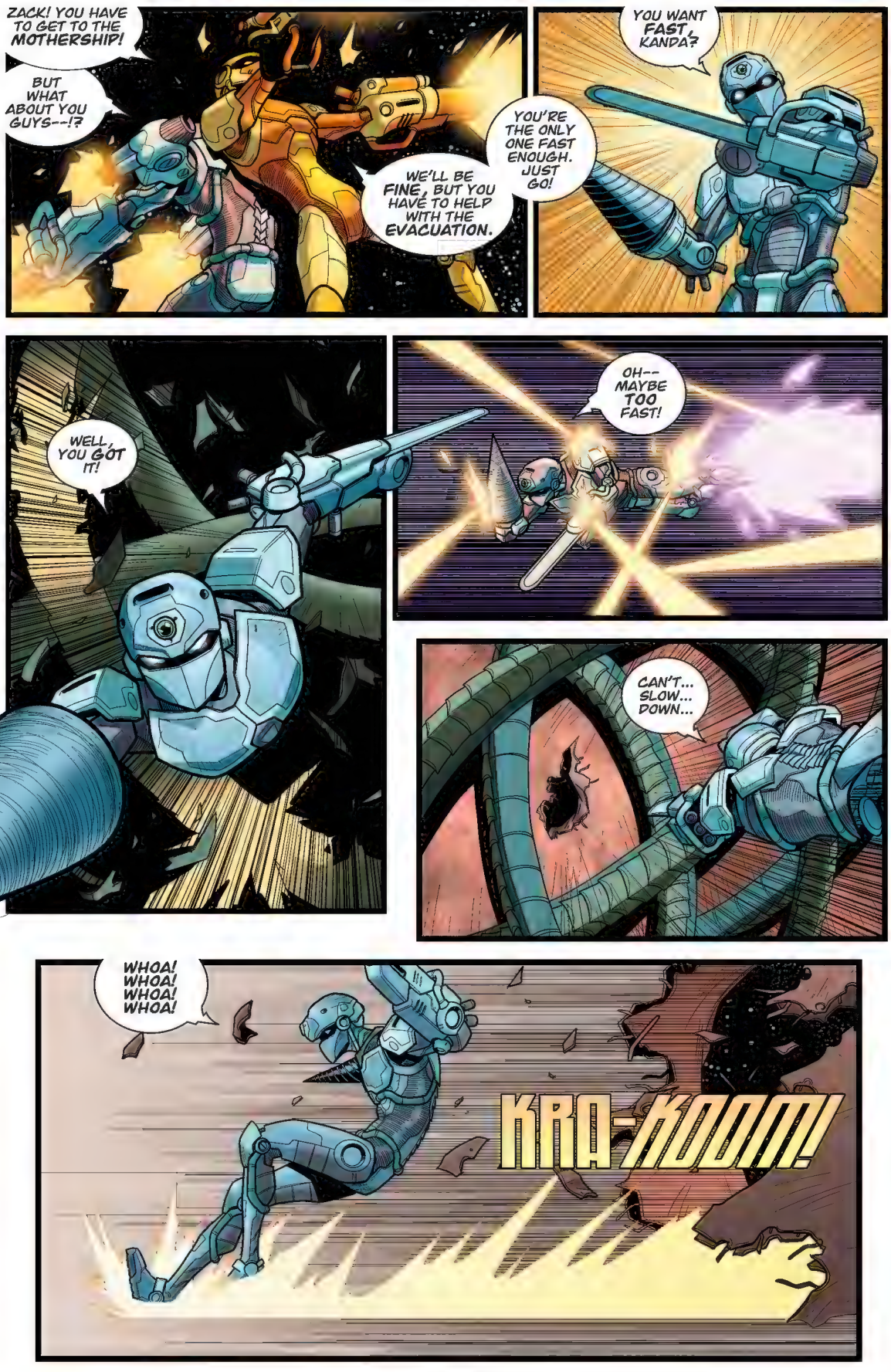

HAS THE MOTHERSHIP RESPONDED YET?

NO, YOUR MAJESTY. STILL RADIO SILENCE.
KEEP TRYING, TARKA. I AM CONFIDENT YOU WILL GET THROUGH TO THEM.


YOUR MAJESTY, WHAT'S GOING ON UP THERE? IS ZACK OKAY?
I DO NOT KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING ABOVE US, BUT I DO KNOW THAT YOUR SON IS ONE OF OUR MIGHTIEST WARRIORS.
I IMAGINE THERE IS LITTLE IN THIS UNIVERSE THAT COULD POSE A SERIOUS THREAT TO HIM AND MY HONORGUARD.

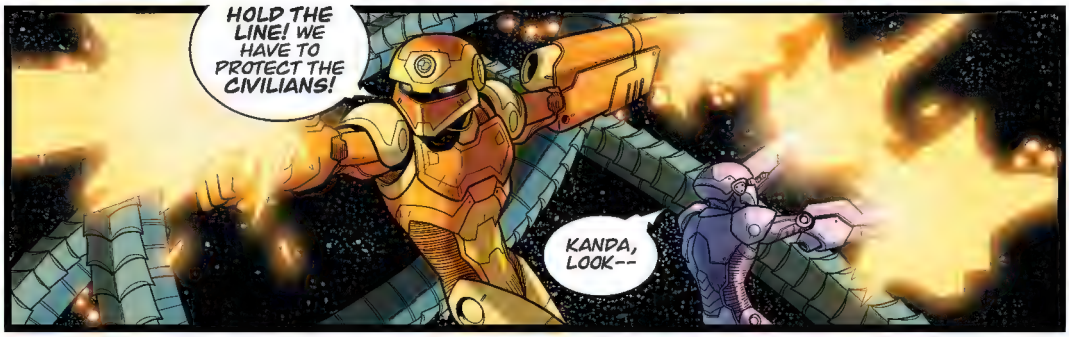
WHILE WE WAIT, PLEASE ENJOY THE GELDARIAN VERSION OF WHAT I BELIEVE YOU CALL "COMFORT FOOD."
THE NAME OF THE DISH CANNOT BE EXPRESSED IN YOUR LANGUAGE, BUT REST ASSURED THAT MY COOKS ARE THE GALAXY'S FINEST.


UMM... THANKS, YOUR MAJESTY...


ZACK! YOU HAVE TO GET TO THE MOTHERSHIP!
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU GUYS--!?
WE'LL BE FINE, BUT YOU HAVE TO HELP WITH THE EVACUATION.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FAST ENOUGH. JUST GO!
YOU WANT FAST, KANDA?
WELL, YOU GOT IT!
OH-- MAYBE TOO FAST!
CAN'T... SLOW... DOWN...
WHOA! WHOA! WHOA! WHOA!
KRA-KOOM!

TECH JACKET RECOGNIZED. ENTRY AUTHORIZED.
FORCEFIELD ESTABLISHED. CABIN PRESSURE STABILIZING.
THANKS... FELLAS...
MISTER, PLEASE! MY MOMMY AND BROTHER, THEY ARE TRAPPED!
WHAT!? WHERE ARE THEY!?
MY HUSBAND... KANDA...TOLD ME ABOUT YOU...
TAKE...OUR CHILDREN... LEAVE ME...
NOT A CHANCE, MRS...?
MY NAME...IS TALEK...
THEN JUST... NNGH... A SECOND... MRS. TALEK...
GRAAAH!
KRUNKK!
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN WALK...
NO PROBLEM-- YOU'VE ALL GOT TICKETS ON THE ZACK EXPRESS.
NOW, PLEASE TELL ME THIS SHIP HAS ESCAPE PODS...

EVERYONE, PLEASE, MOVE QUICKLY BUT CAREFULLY! WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME!
HELP EACH OTHER! THERE'S ROOM FOR EVERYONE, BUT WE NEED TO HURRY!
PRINCESS...?
ZACK!
YOUR HIGHNESS, I'M SO GLAD I FOUND YOU.
ME TOO...
UH...
I'M SORRY, BUT WE NEED TO MOVE QUICKLY.
I NEED YOU TO HELP THE ESCAPE PODS CLEAR THE SHIP.

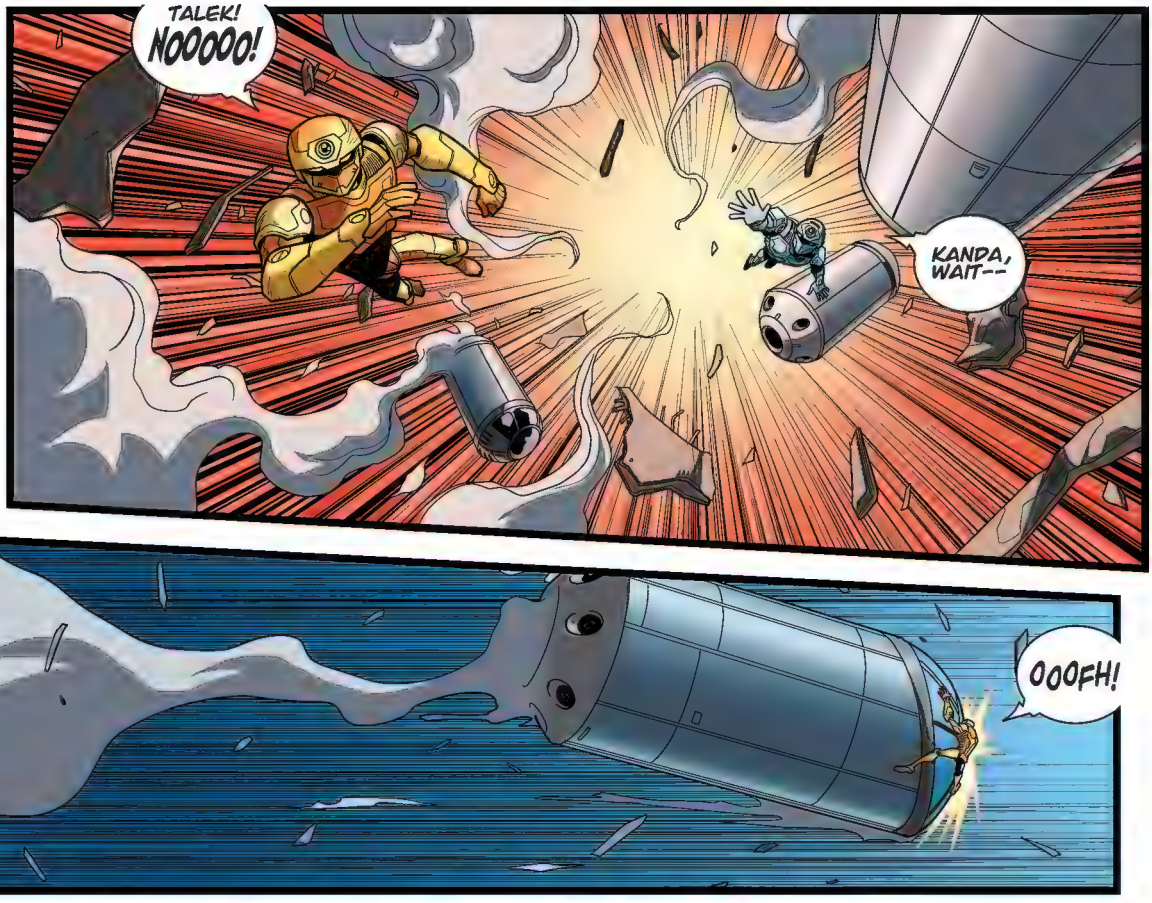

HOLD THE LINE! WE HAVE TO PROTECT THE CIVILIANS!
KANDA, LOOK--

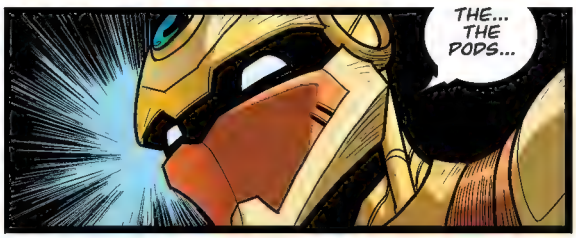
--IT'S ZACK!

ZACK! DID YOU SEE--?
TALEK AND YOUR KIDS ARE JUST FINE, KANDA.

HOW CAN I EVER REPAY YOU?
LET'S JUST FOCUS ON SURVIVING THIS, FOR NOW.

THE MOTHERSHIP DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT CAN HANDLE MUCH MORE OF THIS. I FEAR WE HAVE LOST, ZACK.
OUR ONLY HOPE NOW IS TO GET THESE ESCAPE PODS OUT OF HERE BEFORE--


TALEK! NOOOOO!
KANDA, WAIT--
OOOFH!


THE... THE PODS...

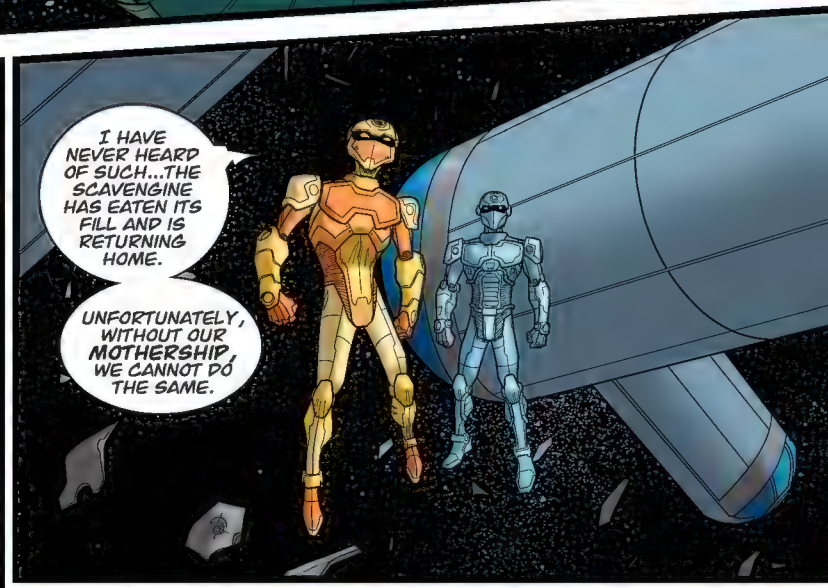
THEY'RE SAFE! EVERYONE'S ALIVE!
UH, KANDA...

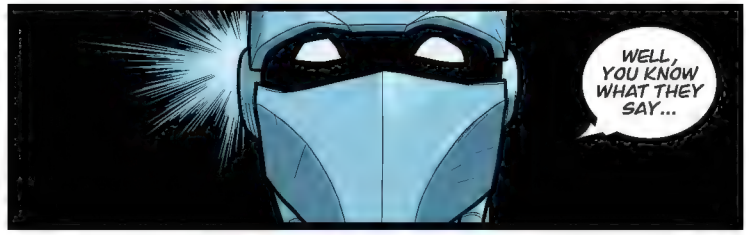
WHAT ABOUT THAT?

GET READY FOR ANOTHER ASSAULT!
WE HAVE TO KEEP IT DISTRACTED WHILE THE RESCUE PODS ESCAPE!
ZACK, WAIT...

...THE SCAVENGINE IS LEAVING.

WHAT? WHY? WHERE'S IT GOING!?


I HAVE NEVER HEARD OF SUCH...THE SCAVENGINE HAS EATEN ITS FILL AND IS RETURNING HOME.
UNFORTUNATELY, WITHOUT OUR MOTHERSHIP, WE CANNOT DO THE SAME.

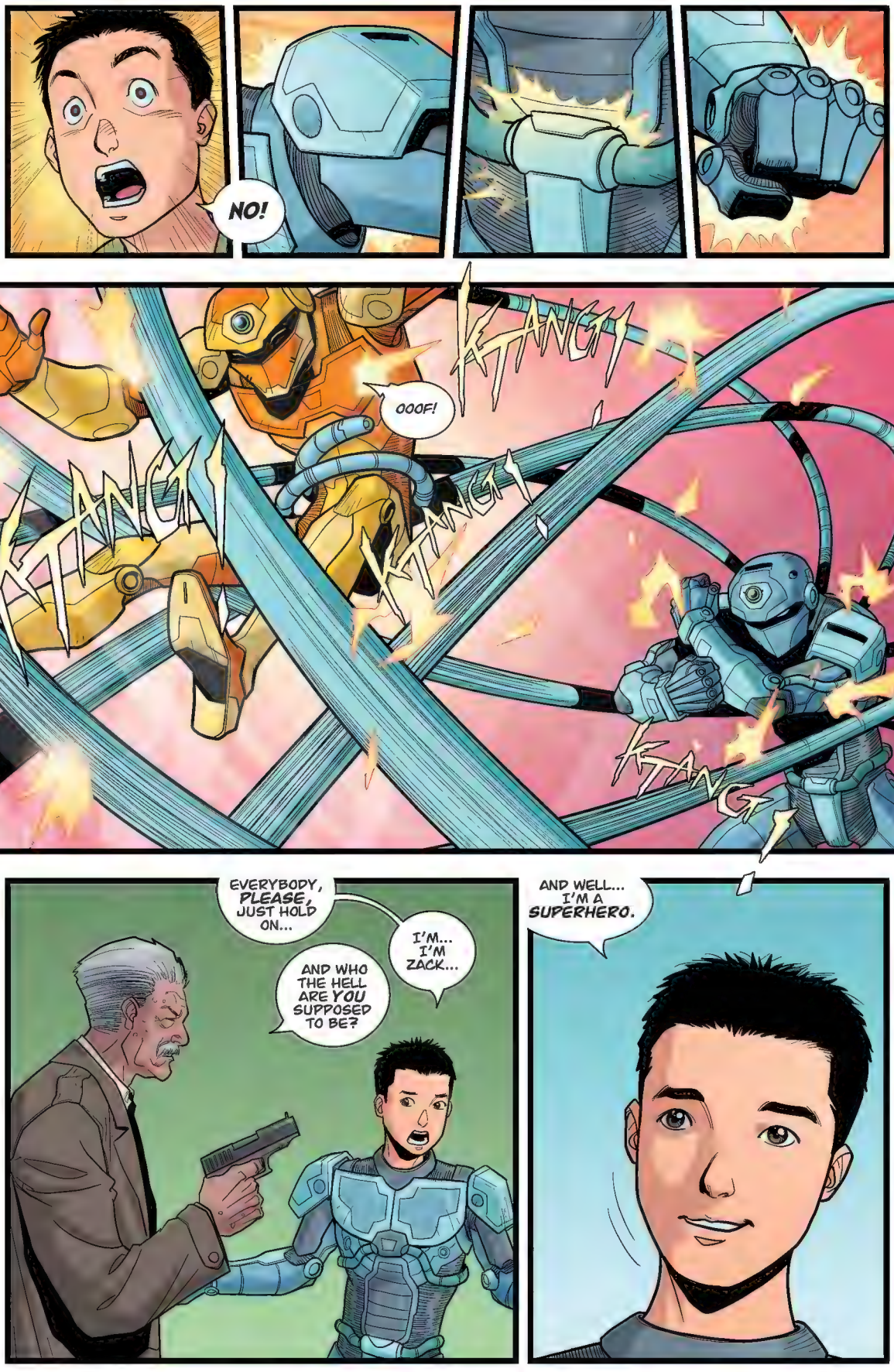

WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY...

"...MI PLANETA ES SU PLANETA!"
THIS IS THE LAST ESCAPE POD. THEY'VE ALL BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR.
DADDY!
SOOZEH! MY HEART AND MY JOY!
MY BELOVED...
EWWW!
AND YOU ALL KNOW ZACK, OF COURSE.
YOUR WIFE MUST BE SO PROUD OF YOU.
WIFE?!

I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU'D BEEN GONE THAT LONG!
WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE? ARE YOU OKAY? WHAT DID THIS TO YOU? DO YOU NEED ANYTHING? HAVE YOU SEEN WHAT THE GELDARIANS EAT?
SCAVENGINE. YES. SCAVENGINE. A SANDWICH. DEFINITELY NOT SANDWICHES.
MY ONLY SON BECOMING A SPACE HERO IS GOING TO TAKE SOME GETTING USED TO.
WAY TO GO, ZACK. DID YOU USE THE LASERS?
ED, LYNN: I HAVE LONG HAD THE PLEASURE OF YOUR CHILD'S ACQUAINTANCE, AND NOW I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE MINE.
THIS IS LIN.
WELCOME, PRINCESS. YOU HAVE A BEAUTIFUL NAME.
AS DO YOU, MADAM.
YOU RISKED YOUR LIFE TO SAVE US, ZACK. YOU TRULY DESERVE A REWARD.
NO, THAT'S NOT NECESSARY, I WAS JUST—

SO, I GUESS THIS IS THE WIFE?
ED!
CLEARLY, MY DAUGHTER AND I ARE VERY FOND OF ALL OF YOU. THEREFORE IT PAINS ME TO CAUSE SUCH AN IMPOSITION.
HOWEVER, WITH OUR MOTHERSHIP DESTROYED AND ONLY SHORT-DISTANCE RESCUE PODS AVAILABLE TO US, WE MUST WAIT FOR ANOTHER VESSEL TO FERRY US BACK TO GELDARIA.
ED, LYNN, HUGH, STEPHANIE. MAY MY PEOPLE SET UP CAMP BY YOUR LAKE? IT WILL NOT BE FOR MORE THAN TWO OF YOUR TERRESTRIAL WEEKS.
WE VOW TO RESPECT YOUR LAND, YOUR CUSTOMS AND YOUR SOVEREIGNTY.
ARE YOU KIDDING? OF COURSE YOU CAN!
WE EVEN HAVE SOME EXTRA SPACE IN THE HOUSE!
BUT THE PRINCESS IS GETTING HER OWN ROOM, MISTER. DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT.
MOM...
EVERYBODY FREEZE!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, BUT YOU DEFINITELY AREN'T ZONED FOR THIS.

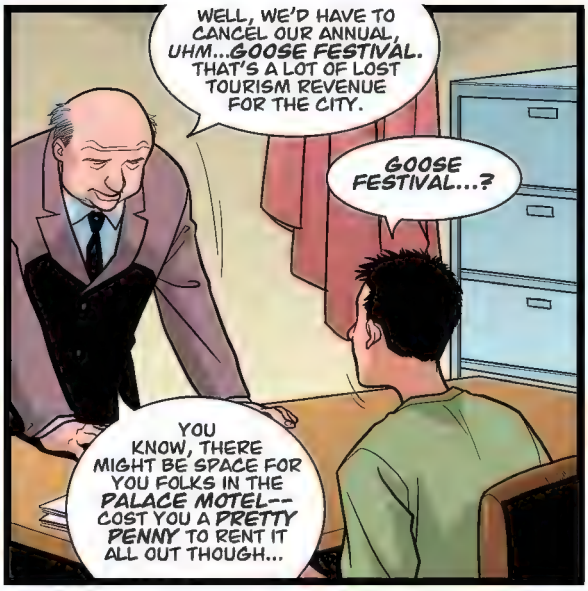
ALL RIGHT. NOW EVERYONE JUST KEEP CALM AND WE'LL--
HOW DARE YOU THREATEN THE EMPEROR!
FOR GELDARIA!
KANDA! NO!
BAM! BAM! BAM! BAM!
BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA-


NO!
KTANG!
OOOF!
KTANG!
KTANG!
KTANG!
EVERYBODY, PLEASE, JUST HOLD ON...
I'M... I'M ZACK...
AND WHO THE HELL ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?
AND WELL... I'M A SUPERHERO.

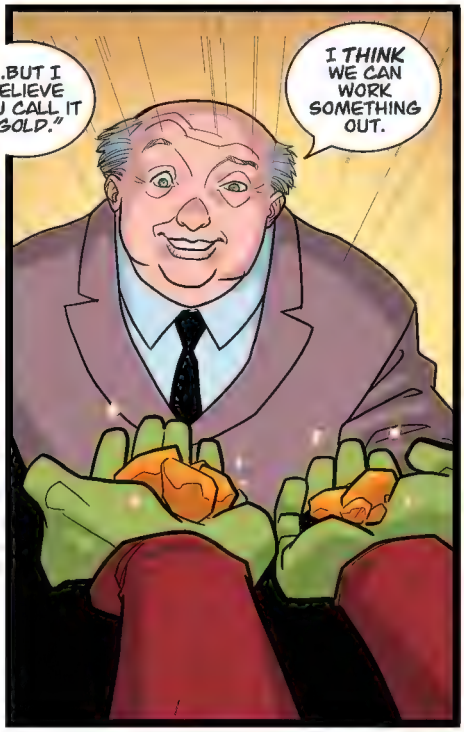
A KID SUPERHERO... THAT'S THE LAST THING I NEED.
STAND DOWN, BOYS.
SUPERHERO OR NOT, I CAN'T BE HAVING THIS KIND OF NONSENSE GOING ON IN MY TOWN. YOU UNDERSTAND?
DO YOUR LITTLE GREEN FRIENDS HAVE ANY CLUE HOW MUCH WE DON'T LIKE ALIENS ON THIS PLANET? OMNI-MAN PRETTY MUCH RUINED THINGS FOR THEIR KIND.
EXCUSE ME, BRAVE WARRIOR. PERHAPS I CAN BE OF HELP HERE...
I AM THE EMPEROR OF GELDARIA, AND I HEREBY REQUEST A PARLEY WITH YOUR OWN SWORN REGENT.
SWORN REGENT...?
=SIGH=
YOU'LL BE WANTING TO SPEAK TO THE MAYOR THEN.
THAT WOULD BE JUST FINE.

"SO, UM, YOUR MAJESTY..."

YOU'D LIKE FOR YOUR PEOPLE TO HOLE UP IN OUR FINE TOWN? IS THAT WHAT I'M TO UNDERSTAND?
TEMPORARILY, OF COURSE. WHILE WE WAIT FOR A WORKING TRANSPORT SHIP.
BUT YOU'D WANT TO KEEP THE WHOLE THING A SECRET?
WE THINK IT'D BE FOR THE BEST. DON'T YOU?

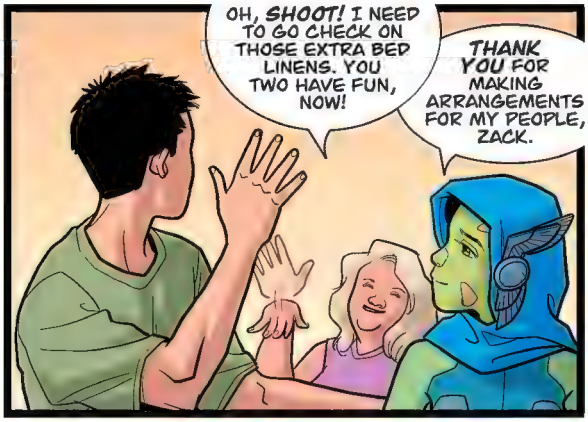

WELL, WE'D HAVE TO CANCEL OUR ANNUAL, UHM...GOOSE FESTIVAL. THAT'S A LOT OF LOST TOURISM REVENUE FOR THE CITY.
GOOSE FESTIVAL...?
YOU KNOW, THERE MIGHT BE SPACE FOR YOU FOLKS IN THE PALACE MOTEL-- COST YOU A PRETTY PENNY TO RENT IT ALL OUT THOUGH...

I WOULD BE HAPPY TO PAY FOR SUCH ROYAL-SOUNDING ACCOMMODATIONS.
UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE LITTLE TO OFFER YOU ASIDE FROM GELDARIAN TRASH METAL. WE USE IT TO PLATE WORN OUT COMPUTER CIRCUITS...
...BUT I BELIEVE YOU CALL IT "GOLD."


I THINK WE CAN WORK SOMETHING OUT.

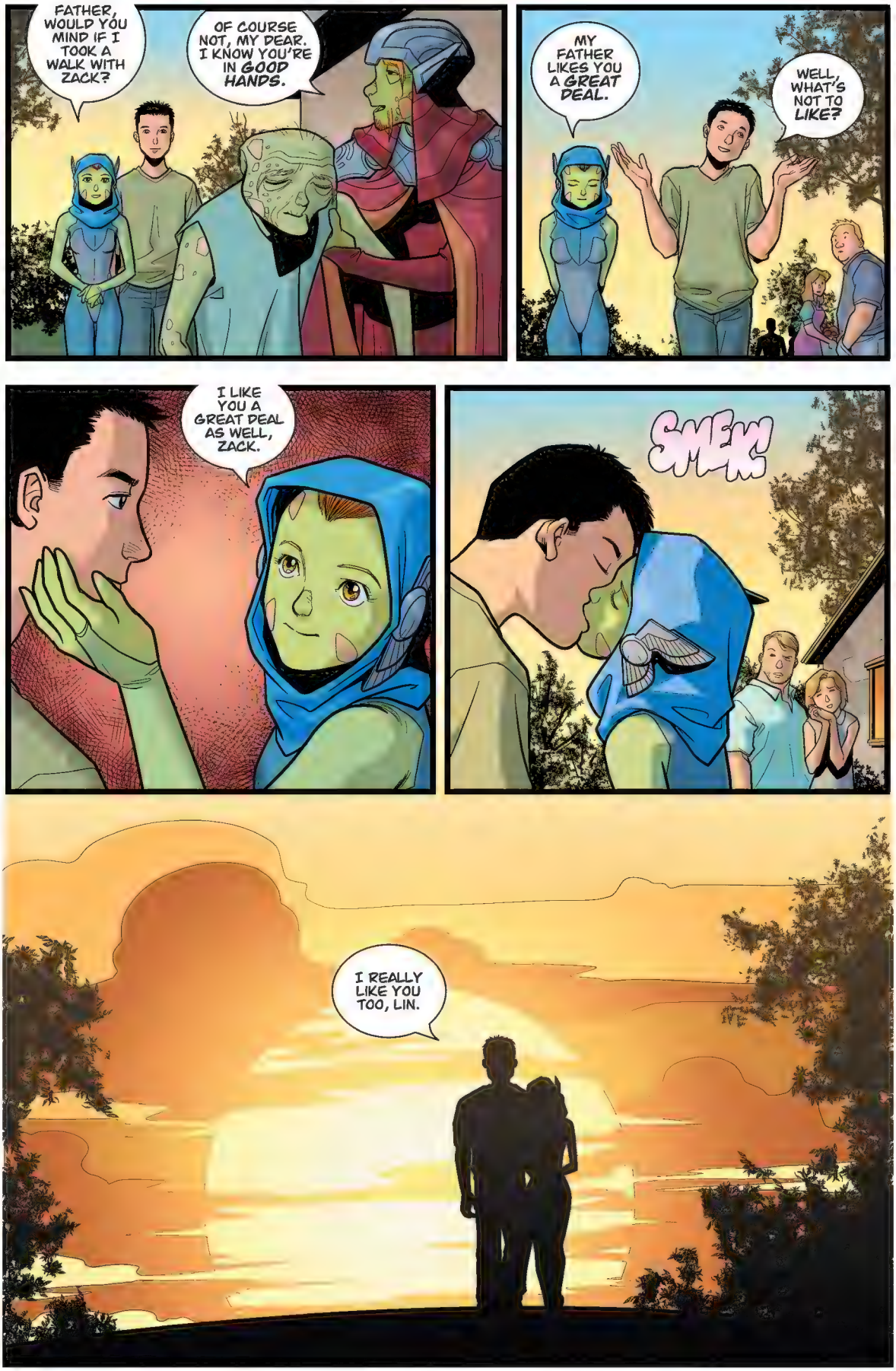
"I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW THRILLED I AM!"
PALACE MOTEL

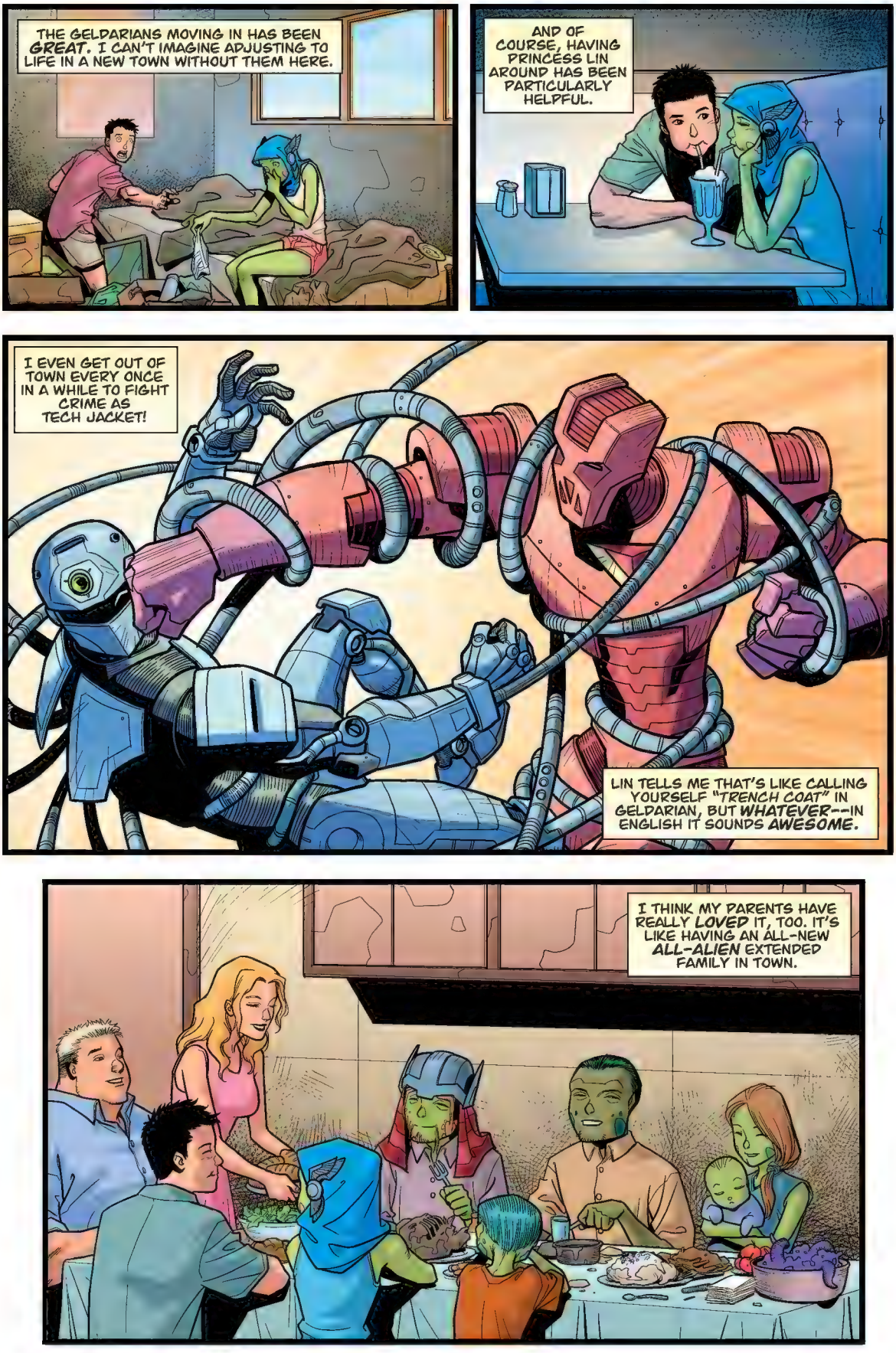
WE HAVEN'T HAD THIS MUCH EXCITEMENT SINCE THE LAST GOOSE FESTIVAL!
WAIT... REALLY?
I JUST LOVE ALIENS. YOU DON'T EAT CATS, DO YOU?
CATS...?

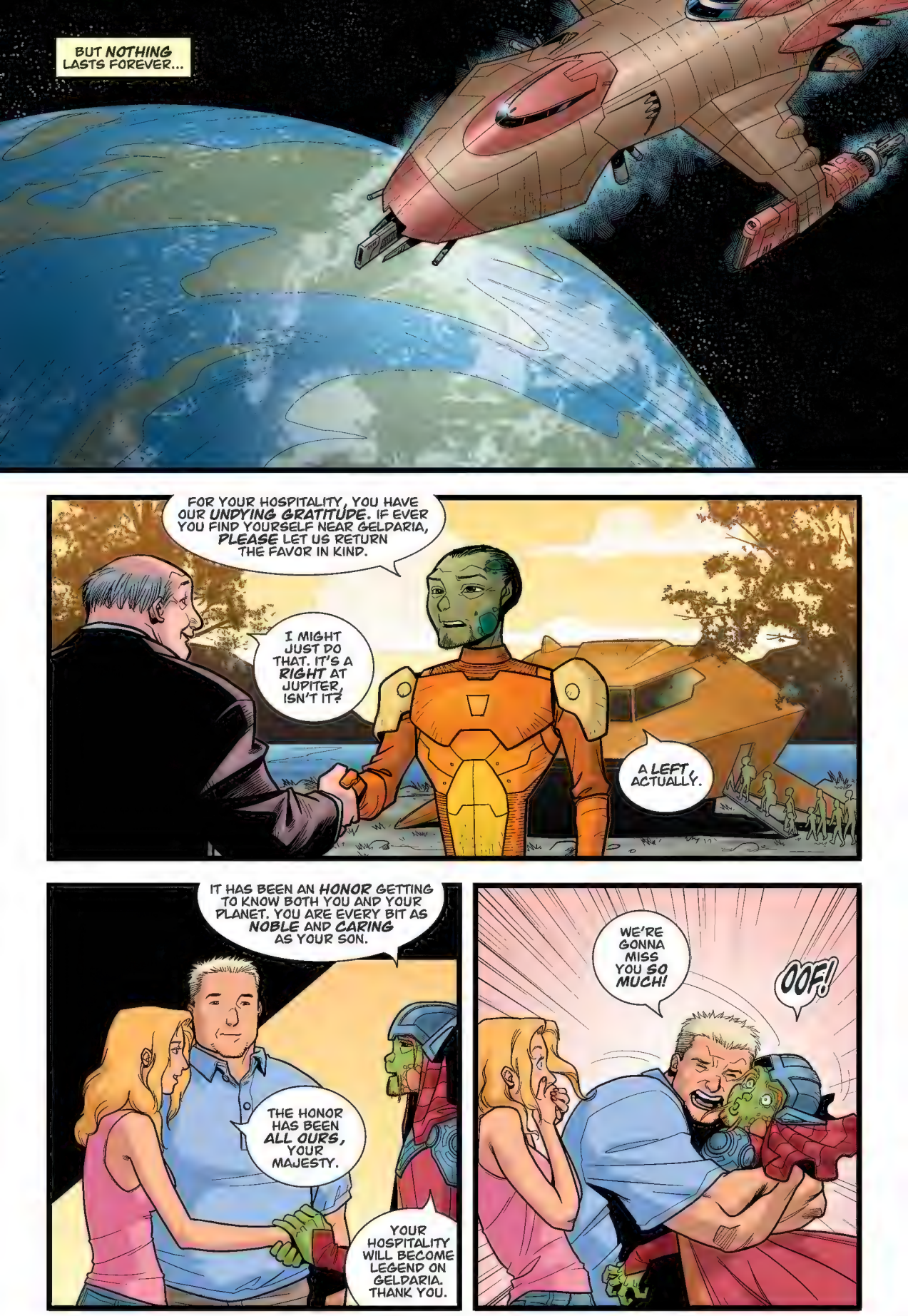

OH, SHOOT! I NEED TO GO CHECK ON THOSE EXTRA BED LINENS. YOU TWO HAVE FUN, NOW!
THANK YOU FOR MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR MY PEOPLE, ZACK.

IT WAS NOTHING, I JUST WISH WE COULD HAVE FOUND YOU SOMEWHERE NICER.
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. WE DON'T REQUIRE MUCH, AND I'M SURE WE'LL BE FITTING IN WITH THE TOWNSPEOPLE IN NO TIME.

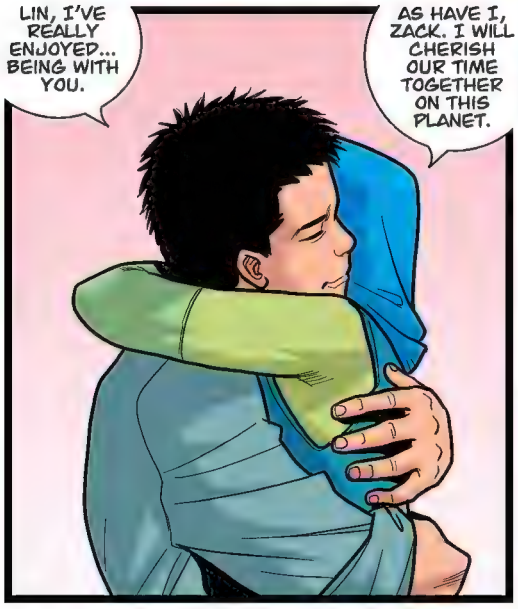
YEAH, THAT MIGHT TAKE A LITTLE WHILE.


FATHER, WOULD YOU MIND IF I TOOK A WALK WITH ZACK?
OF COURSE NOT, MY DEAR. I KNOW YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS.
MY FATHER LIKES YOU A GREAT DEAL.
WELL, WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE?
I LIKE YOU A GREAT DEAL AS WELL, ZACK.
SMEK
I REALLY LIKE YOU TOO, LIN.

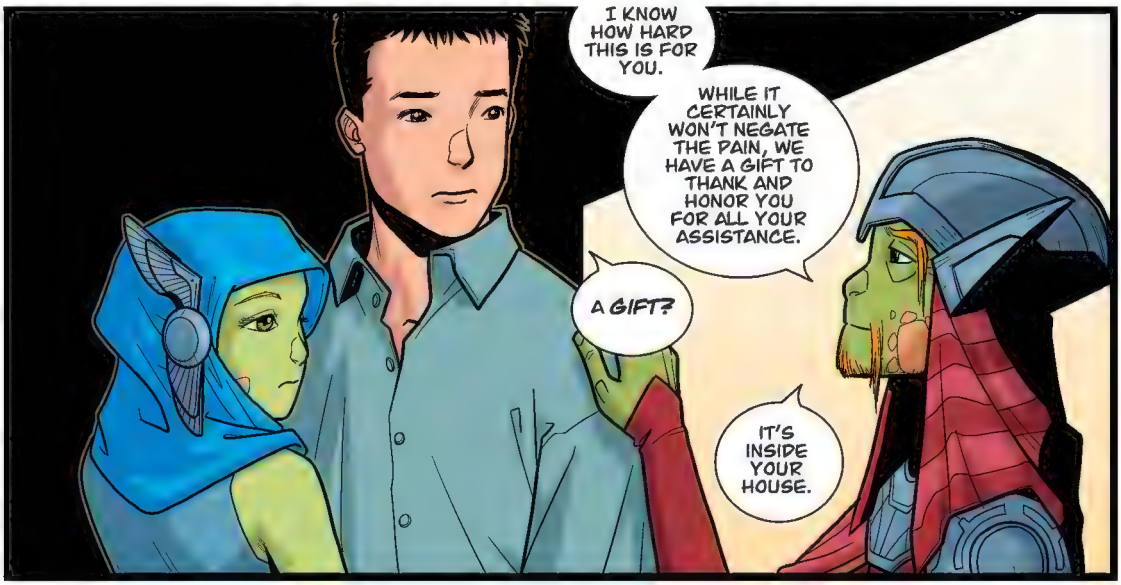

THE GELDARIANS MOVING IN HAS BEEN GREAT. I CAN'T IMAGINE ADJUSTING TO LIFE IN A NEW TOWN WITHOUT THEM HERE.
AND OF COURSE, HAVING PRINCESS LIN AROUND HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY HELPFUL.
I EVEN GET OUT OF TOWN EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE TO FIGHT CRIME AS TECH JACKET!
LIN TELLS ME THAT'S LIKE CALLING YOURSELF "TRENCH COAT" IN GELDARIAN, BUT WHATEVER--IN ENGLISH IT SOUNDS AWESOME.
I THINK MY PARENTS HAVE REALLY LOVED IT, TOO. IT'S LIKE HAVING AN ALL-NEW ALL-ALIEN EXTENDED FAMILY IN TOWN.


BUT NOTHING LASTS FOREVER...
FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY, YOU HAVE OUR UNDYING GRATITUDE. IF EVER YOU FIND YOURSELF NEAR GELDARIA, PLEASE LET US RETURN THE FAVOR IN KIND.
I MIGHT JUST DO THAT. IT'S A RIGHT AT JUPITER, ISN'T IT?
A LEFT, ACTUALLY.
IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR GETTING TO KNOW BOTH YOU AND YOUR PLANET. YOU ARE EVERY BIT AS NOBLE AND CARING AS YOUR SON.
THE HONOR HAS BEEN ALL OURS, YOUR MAJESTY.
YOUR HOSPITALITY WILL BECOME LEGEND ON GELDARIA. THANK YOU.
WE'RE GONNA MISS YOU SO MUCH!
OOF!

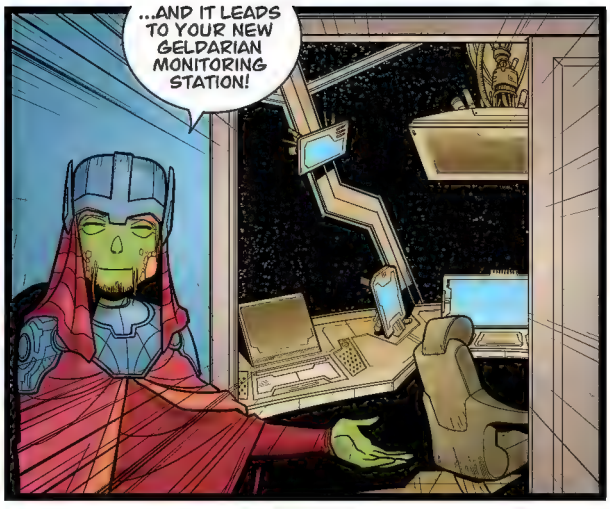
WELL...
WELL...


LIN, I'VE REALLY ENJOYED... BEING WITH YOU.
AS HAVE I, ZACK. I WILL CHERISH OUR TIME TOGETHER ON THIS PLANET.

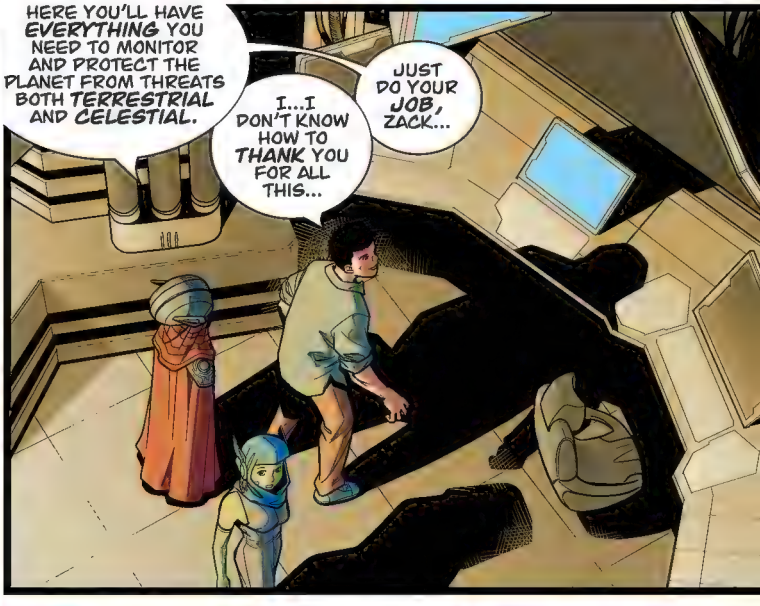
PROMISE YOU'LL COME VISIT GELDARIA!
I PROMISE.
EXCUSE ME, ZACK...?

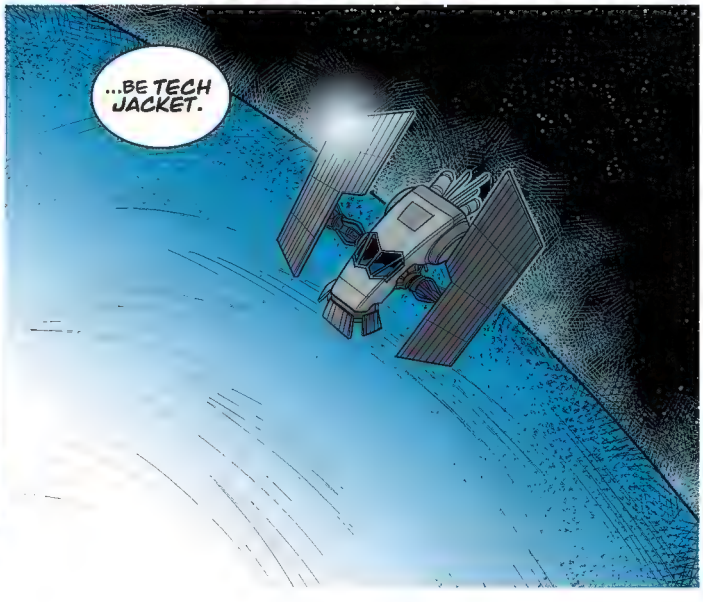

I KNOW HOW HARD THIS IS FOR YOU.
WHILE IT CERTAINLY WON'T NEGATE THE PAIN, WE HAVE A GIFT TO THANK AND HONOR YOU FOR ALL YOUR ASSISTANCE.
A GIFT?
IT'S INSIDE YOUR HOUSE.

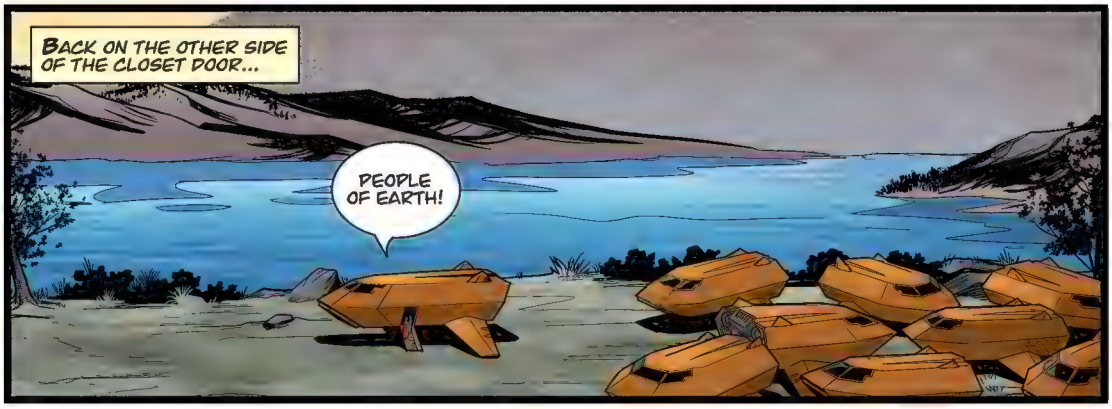
NORMALLY, THIS CLOSET CONTAINS ONLY SLACKS, SHIRTS, AND JACKETS OF THE LESS TECHNICAL VARIETY.
BUT FLICK THIS SWITCH...
TEK!


...AND IT LEADS TO YOUR NEW GELDARIAN MONITORING STATION!

YOUR MAJESTY, THIS IS INCREDIBLE! BUT HOW... WHAT...?
YOUR CLOSET IS NOW A PORTAL TO EARTH'S OUTER ATMOSPHERE.

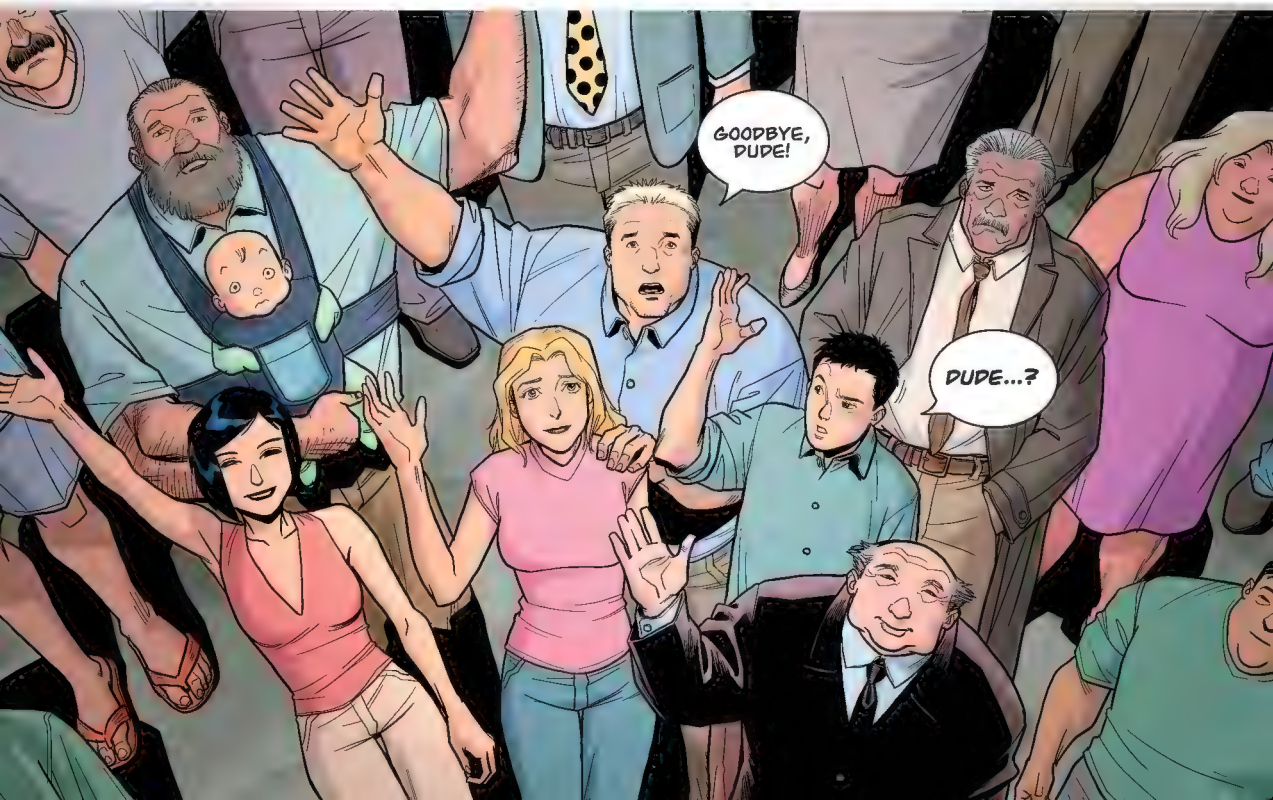

HERE YOU'LL HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO MONITOR AND PROTECT THE PLANET FROM THREATS BOTH TERRESTRIAL AND CELESTIAL.
I...I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU FOR ALL THIS...
JUST DO YOUR JOB, ZACK...

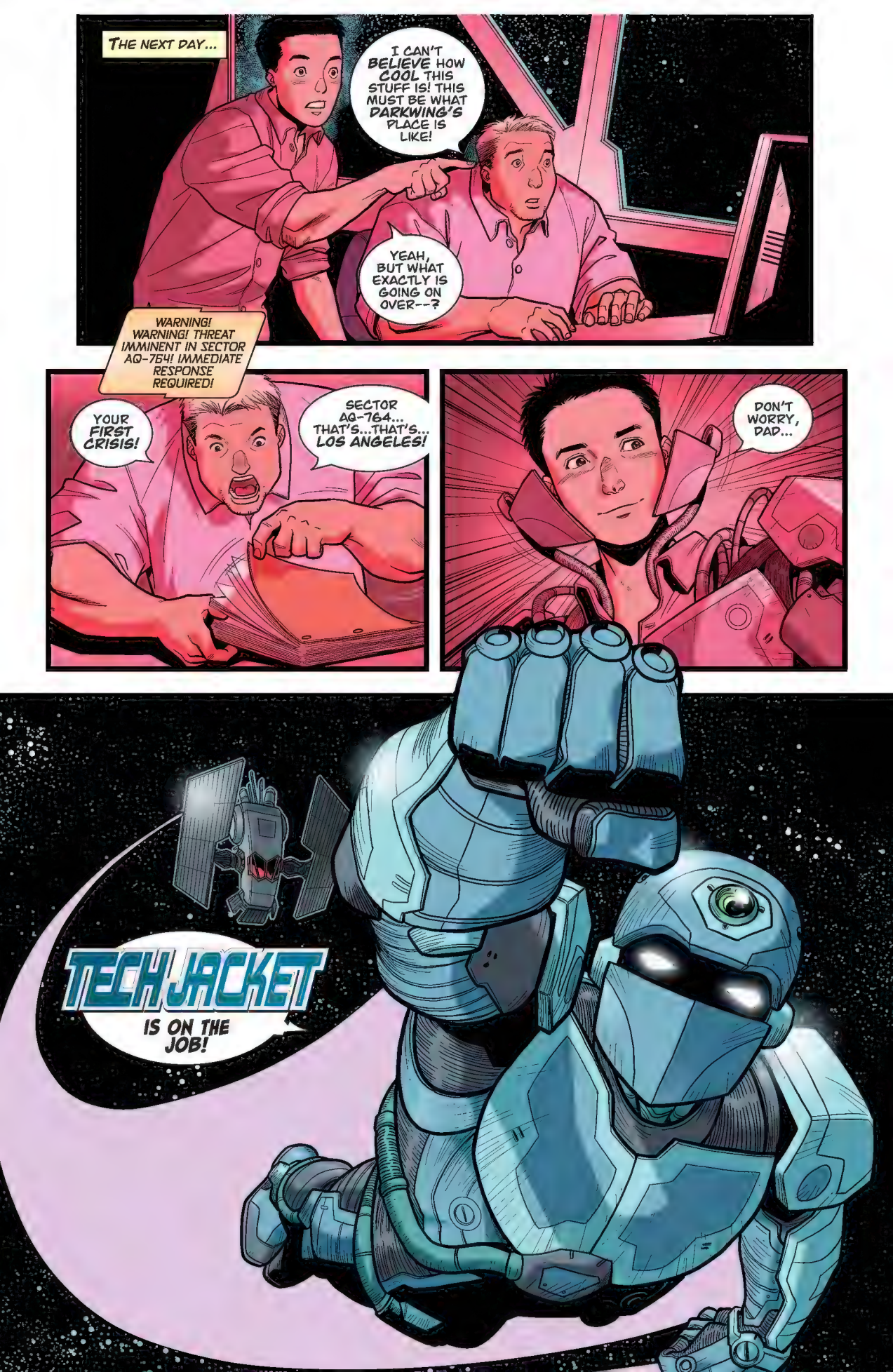

...BE TECH JACKET.


BACK ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CLOSET DOOR...
PEOPLE OF EARTH!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY, KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY DURING THIS TIME. YOU SHALL FOREVER BE FRIENDS TO THE GELDARIAN EMPIRE.
WE BID YOU FAREWELL!

VOOSH!
VOOSH!
VOOSH!


GOODBYE, DUDE!
DUDE...?


THE NEXT DAY...
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW COOL THIS STUFF IS! THIS MUST BE WHAT DARKWING'S PLACE IS LIKE!
YEAH, BUT WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON OVER--?
WARNING! WARNING! THREAT IMMINENT IN SECTOR AQ-764! IMMEDIATE RESPONSE REQUIRED!
YOUR FIRST CRISIS!
SECTOR AQ-764... THAT'S...THAT'S... LOS ANGELES!
DON'T WORRY, DAD...
TECH JACKET
IS ON THE JOB!

JOE KEATINGE • KHARY RANDOLPH • DAVE MCCAIG

TECH JACKET™

DIGITAL

image

SKYBOUND

1

TECH JACKET™
DIGITAL

JOE KEATINGE
writer

KHARY RANDOLPH
penciler, inker

DAVE MCCAIG
colorist

RUS WOOTON
letterer

SEAN MACKIEWICZ
editor

Cover by
KHARY RANDOLPH
EMILIO LOPEZ

Created by
ROBERT KIRKMAN & E.J. SU

IMAGE COMICS INC
[illegible]
IMAGECOMICS.COM

SKYBOUND
For SKYBOUND ENTERTAINMENT
Robert Kirkman [illegible]
J.J. Dridge President
Sean Mackiewicz Editorial Director
Shawn Kirkham Director of Business Development
Brian Huntington Online Editions Director
Helen Leigh Office Manager
Feldman Public Relations LA Public Relations
For international rights inquiries
please contact foreign@skybound.com
WWW.SKYBOUND.COM

TECH JACKET DIGITAL #1. January 2014. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2001 Center Street, Sixth Floor, Berkeley, California 94704.

Copyright © 2014 Robert Kirkman, LLC and E.J. Su. All rights reserved. TECH JACKET™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® is a trademark of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental.

DIGITAL EDITION.

OH, MAN, OH, MAN -- I'M SO LATE!

ZACK'S GONNA BE PISSED!

UPSTATE NEW YORK.

HEY, BUDDY, IT'S DAD!

I GUESS IF THIS IS GOING TO VOICEMAIL EVERYTHING'S OKAY, BUT THINGS TOOK FOREVER AT THE UNEMPLOYMENT OFFICE!

I'M TOTALLY LATE FOR PATROL!

BUT I'M ON MY WAY HOME NOW, SO I'LL TELEPORT RIGHT UP TO THE SATELLITE AND MAKE SURE NO ONE'S ATTACKED EARTH THIS MORNING.

EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE COOL, DUDE!

AND YEAH, I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU LATER. YOU STILL LIKE PIZZA, RIGHT?!

I'M BUYING PIZZA!

"YOU STILL LIKE PIZZA?!"

OF COURSE HE DOES! WHO DOESN'T LIKE PIZZA?!

I'M SUCH A MORON.

LET'S JUST HOPE IT'S ANOTHER QUIET DAY IN OUTER SPACE.

ZACK, I-IS THAT INVINCIBLE?!

LOOKING LIKE IT.

YOU MAY WANNA LAY OFF, BUDDY!

I DUNNO IF YOUR SUIT'S STRENGTH COULD HOLD UP TO HIM, EVEN WITH THE LASERS!

HE MIGHT BE LASER-PROOF!

I DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE HERE, DAD!

BREET! BREET!

GLOBAL EMERGENCY IN PROGRESS!

OH, MAN -- WHAT *ELSE* IS WRONG?!

KRAKKO-

BA-DOOM!!

THRAK!

THERE'RE *TWO* INVINCIBLES...?

DOES HE HAVE A *BROTHER*?!

OH, MY GOD... ZACK... IT'S MORE INVINCIBLES...

...THEY'RE *EVERYWHERE**...

*YEP, THIS HAPPENS DURING THE INVINCIBLE WAR OF *INVINCIBLE* #60. -SEAN

"THAT GUY'S GOT *A LOT* OF BROTHERS."

YOU SURE TOOK YOUR TIME GETTING HERE.

I WAS PREOCCUPIED.

BESIDES, I DON'T SEE WHY HE WAS GIVING YOU SUCH A HARD TIME.

YOU SHOULD BE EMBARRASSED FOR ALL OUR FELLOW VILTRUMITES, ACROSS ALL DIMENSIONS.

EXCUSE ME!

I DON'T HAVE ONE OF THESE GUYS IN *MY* DIMENSION.

WE DON'T EITHER, BUT I RECOGNIZE THE TECHNOLOGY.

IT'S GELDARIAN.

I'VE SLAUGHTERED MANY A GELDARIAN.

THEY'RE A TOUGH SPECIES ON A TECHNOLOGICAL LEVEL. UNDERNEATH THEIR ARMOR THEY'RE SO SOFT, SO WEAK... SO EASILY BROKEN.

BUT THEIR ARMOR'S DEFENSES ARE VAST... LASER CANNONS, TENDRILS, BLADES, IN ADDITION TO AUGMENTING THEIR OWN STRENGTH A HUNDREDFOLD.

I HAVE TO SAY, I'VE NEVER KNOWN ONE TO BE DONNED BY A SPECIES ALREADY MORE POWERFUL THAN THEM, MUCH LESS A HUMAN.

THE POTENTIAL EFFECT... THE POTENTIAL POWER... COULD BE *ENORMOUS.*

THRAKKAKRAK!!

I'M A REAL BIG FAN!

IMBECILE.

WHAT HOPE DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE HERE? HOW DO YOU POSSIBLY THINK THIS IS GOING TO END?

WE ARE VILTRUMITE. WE ARE LEGION.

WE WILL BREAK YOUR ENTIRE SPECIES OVER THIS PLANET'S SCALDING CORPSE.

YOU GUYS ARE SUCH DOWNERS.

YOUR INSOLENCE WILL END AS I TEAR THROUGH YOUR CORE AND FEAST UPON YOUR FLESH!

NOW YOU'RE JUST BEING GROSS!

QUIET YOUR TONGUE.

THRAKKAKRAK!

Y'KNOW, YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING.

I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT WITH YOU.

PUNCHING YOU OUT ISN'T GOING TO WORK. I'M PROBABLY NOT FAST ENOUGH TO SHOOT YOU FULL OF LASERS.

BUT IT'S LIKE YOU SAID -- THIS SUIT HAS A LOT MORE GOING ON.

I GOTTA THINK ABOUT POTENTIAL. I'VE HAD ONE IDEA FOR TIMES LIKE THESE -- TIMES WHERE NOTHING ELSE IS GONNA WORK.

QUIT YOUR PRATTLING.

WHATEVER YOU WANT, MAN.

SUIT, OVERRIDE FAIL-SAFES.

ROUTE ALL POWER TO BATTERY.

OVERLOAD THE SYSTEM.

"OVERLOAD" THE WHAT...?

BRAZZAROTH!

THUD.

...ZACHARY?

OH, YOU POOR BOY.

YOUR FATHER WAS RIGHT TO CALL US, BUT I WISH WE KNEW SOONER. WE COULD HAVE HELPED.

WE CAN'T RISK EARTHBOUND AUTHORITIES KNOWING ABOUT THE TECH JACKET.

LET'S TAKE ZACHARY HOME. HIS FELLOW TOWNSPEOPLE KNOW TO KEEP QUIET ABOUT US.

WE CAN ASSIST HIS LOCAL HOSPITAL -- DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO HELP...

...AND HOPE WE CAN KEEP HIM ALIVE.

OH, BUDDY...

...I'M SO SORRY...

...THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.

ED, COME ON. THERE WAS NO WAY YOU COULD HAVE KNOWN.

ZACK'S NO FOOL -- HE'S TAKEN A BIG JOB, HE'S KNOWN EVERY SINGLE DAY SINCE THAT BEING EARTH'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE FROM WHATEVER'S OUT THERE IS UNSAFE AT BEST.

YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF.

BUT LYNN --

SHE'S RIGHT, MR. THOMPSON.

DON'T BLAME YOURSELF.

ZACK WON'T.

I KNOW HE WON'T.

BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW I CAN'T.

ZACK MEANS EVERYTHING TO ME -- MORE THAN ANYTHING, ANYONE ELSE.

UM, YOU TOO, LYNN.

IT'S OKAY, HONEY.

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

...DAD...?

DUDE! YEAH!

I'M RIGHT HERE!

I CAN SEE THAT.

I DIDN'T GO BLIND.

LISTEN... MY VOICEMAIL REROUTES TO THE ARMOR...

...I HEARD EVERYTHING...

...I KNOW YOU FEEL AWFUL ABOUT BEING LATE...

...I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU BLAME YOURSELF...

...I KNOW HOW HURT YOU ARE.

BUT I WANT TO ASSURE YOU... PROMISE YOU...

...THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS...

...I'LL ALWAYS LOVE PIZZA.

LOOKING GOOD, DUDE!

THANKS, DAD -- I FEEL PRETTY GOOD.

LYING AROUND IN BED FOR A COUPLE MONTHS WASN'T THE MOST FUN I'VE HAD, BUT I FEEL MOSTLY ALIVE AGAIN.

I JUST HATED BEING SO USELESS.

EVERYTHING'S BEEN TOTALLY COOL, THOUGH. KANDA AND THE OTHER GELDARIANS HAVE DONE A GREAT JOB PITCHING IN!

EARTH'LL BE READY FOR YOU WHEN YOU'RE READY TO GET BACK AT IT!

YEAH... I KNOW...

I JUST, WHAT HAPPENED THERE... IT WASN'T JUST THAT I GOT SO BEAT UP, BUT I KILLED TWO GUYS.

TWO GUYS WHO WOULD'VE KILLED ME, BUT YEAH... THEY'RE DEAD NOW.

I JUST FEEL LIKE I NEED TO THINK ABOUT EVERYTHING.

THINK ABOUT WHAT I'M DOING HERE AT ALL.

MAYBE --

MAYBE YOU NEED A VACATION.

YEAH?

YEAH. I MEAN, THE GELDARIANS WILL HELP OUT FOR ANOTHER COUPLE OF WEEKS.

MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU GET OUT OF TOWN FOR A WHILE.

CLEAR YOUR HEAD.

LIN COULD USE A SPACESHIP, RIGHT? YOU COULD GO ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD -- OR OUT OF IT.

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO FINALLY SEE EUROPE OR ASIA?

MAYBE BACKPACK AROUND?

WELL, WHAT ABOUT YOU GUYS?

WHERE WOULD YOU WANNA GO?

I DON'T THINK YOU GET WHAT I'M SUGGESTING HERE.

I'M NOT SAYING WE SHOULD DO WHAT WE ALWAYS DO, TAKE A BIG FAMILY TRIP.

I'M SAYING IT SHOULD JUST BE YOU.

AND LIN.

OH.

OH.

OH, WOW.

YEAH, OKAY.

I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE THAT IDEA.

JUST PROMISE ME YOU'LL BEHAVE.

NO HANKY PANKY.

A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY.

FROM THE HEART OF CREATION, I'VE COME TO REALIZE MY ETERNAL CHARGE: WRESTING THE UNIVERSE FREE FROM WEAKER PLANETS, CONSUMING THEM -- EMPOWERING ME.

YOUR GENOCIDE SHALL BE MY EVOLUTION!

IN YOUR DEATH, I SHALL ASCEND TO GODHOOD!

ALL SHALL TREMBLE BEFORE MY ENDLESS POWER!

DOUBTFUL.

SQUIT

THE CLIENT WOULD LIKE TO MEET YOU IN PERSON.

HE HAS SOMETHING EVEN MORE... *LUCRATIVE* FOR YOU.

WONDERFUL WORK.

THE CLIENT WILL BE VERY IMPRESSED. WE'LL PROCESS YOUR INVOICE IMMEDIATELY.

THOSE WERE THE TERMS.

AND THEY'LL CERTAINLY BE HONORED, BUT DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?

YOU MUST BE *NULL!*

IT'S WELL PAST TIME WE FINALLY MEET IN PERSON.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK TODAY. YOU'VE DONE MORE GOOD THAN YOU'LL EVER REALIZE.

"GOOD" HOLDS NO INTEREST.

I WAS TOLD YOU HAD ANOTHER JOB.

AND I DO.

ONE CERTAINLY WORTH EVEN MORE THAN THE PLANET EATER.

YOU SEE, GOOD'S NOT MY INTEREST EITHER. NOT GREATER GOOD ANYWAY.

I'M NOT HIRING YOU TO SAVE LIVES BESIDE MY OWN. I HAVE NO INTEREST IN PROTECTING THE GALAXY, TO BETTER THE UNIVERSE.

WE'RE MUCH ALIKE, YOU AND I.

THERE WAS A TIME -- ALL TOO LONG AGO NOW -- THAT I DID JUST WHAT YOU DO.

TRAVELED FROM WORLD TO WORLD, KILLING FOR THE HIGHEST BIDDER. COMMITTING GENOCIDE FOR THE RIGHT PRICE, IF NEED BE.

UNLIKE YOU, THE STRENGTH I HAD WAS NOT INHERENT. I HAD HELP. I TORE TECHNOLOGY FROM THE CORPSES OF THOSE I SLAUGHTERED AND MADE MYSELF INTO SOMETHING BETTER, BUT IT WAS NEVER ENOUGH.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF GELDARIA?

"THEY'RE A WEAK RACE. PITIFULLY SO, BUT LIKE ME THEY DESIRED TO BECOME BETTER THAN THEY WERE. STRONGER THAN THEY WERE FATED TO.

"GENERATIONS AGO, THEY BUILT ARMOR TO DO JUST THIS.

"TO AUGMENT THEIR WEAK BODIES INTO SOMETHING MORE."

I BROKE MANY OF THEIR OWN TO TEAR THE GLOVES AND CHEST PLATE I WEAR. THEY KEEP ME ALIVE, BUT I FEEL THEY COULD DO SO MUCH MORE.

TO MAKE ME STRONG AGAIN. TO MAKE ME VITAL.

TO MAKE ME LIKE YOU.

YES, THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF GELDARIANS EQUIPPED WITH SUCH ARMOR, BUT I DON'T THINK ANY OF THOSE WOULD BE ENOUGH.

YOU SEE, THE ARMOR AUGMENTS THE HOST, BUT THE HOST ALSO AUGMENTS THE ARMOR. IT'S SYMBIOTIC -- THE STRONGER THE HOST, THE STRONGER THE ARMOR.

THE CLOSER I BECOME TO BEING WHAT I ONCE WAS.

LIKE HIM, LIKE TECH JACKET.

THE FIRST HUMAN TO DON GELDARIAN ARMOR, MAKING HIM -- AND THE ARMOR -- THOUSANDS OF TIMES MORE POWERFUL THAN ANYTHING ANY OTHER GELDARIAN COULD EVER ASPIRE TO.

I WANT YOU TO TEAR THE ARMOR FROM HIS BODY.

I WANT YOU TO MAKE ME WHOLE AGAIN.

WILL YOU HELP ME?

I'M GOING TO NEED AN ADVANCE.

MONTEVERDE, COSTA RICA.

I THOUGHT YOUR MOM SAID NO "HANKY PANKY."

UM, SORRY -- I DIDN'T MEAN...

OH, SHUT UP.

I'M TEASING.

I THINK IT'S LONG PAST TIME.

YEAH?

OH, YEAH.

I CARE ABOUT YOU A LOT, ZACK.

WE'RE READY FOR THE NEXT STEP.

SO, YOU WANT TO--

YES. NOW.

RIGHT NOW.

WELL, THEN.

UM.

WHAT THE --

UM, LIN -- I --

I DIDN'T KNOW GELDARIANS WERE SO, WELL --

DIFFERENT.

WE'RE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.

THERE'S NO WAY FOR...

...US.

JOE KEATINGE • KHARY RANDOLPH • EMILIO LOPEZ

TECH JACKET

DIGITAL

image

SKYBOUND

2

TECH JACKET™

DIGITAL

JOE KEATINGE
writer

KHARY RANDOLPH
penciler, inker

EMILIO LOPEZ
colorist

RUS WOOTON
letterer

SEAN MACKIEWICZ
editor

Cover by
KHARY RANDOLPH
EMILIO LOPEZ

Created by
ROBERT KIRKMAN & E.J. SU

IMAGE COMICS INC
Robert Kirkman
Eric Stephenson
Jennifer de Guzman
Kat Salazar
Jeff Boison
Jamie Parreno
Emily Miller
Tyler Shainline
David Brothers
Drew Gill
Meredith Wallace
Monica Garcia
Jessica Savage
Addison Duke

IMAGECOMICS.COM

SKYBOUND

For SKYBOUND ENTERTAINMENT

Robert Kirkman CEO
J.J. Didde President
Sean Mackiewicz Editorial Director
Shawn Kirkham Director of Business Development
Brian Huntington Online Editorial Director
Helen Leigh Office Manager
Fadiman Public Relations LA Public Relations

For international rights inquiries
please contact: foreign@skybound.com

WWW.SKYBOUND.COM

TECH JACKET DIGITAL #2. January 2014. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2001 Center Street, Sixth Floor, Berkeley, California 94704. Copyright © 2014 Robert Kirkman, LLC and E.J. Su. All rights reserved. TECH JACKET™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® is a trademark of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental.
DIGITAL EDITION.

DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT... US?

...

WHAT'S THERE TO TALK ABOUT?

I SHOULD GO.

SLAM!

ED?

ARE YOU READY TO EAT?

IN A MINUTE, LYNN!

AW, COME ON, ED.

WHY THE HECK ARE YOU STILL DYEING YOUR HAIR?

UM.

IT LOOKS COOL?

NO, IT LOOKS RIDICULOUS.

IT ALWAYS HAS.

I WAS TRYING TO LAY LOW! I OWED A WHOLE LOT OF BAD PEOPLE A WHOLE LOT OF MONEY!

AND I'M SURE THE DYE WAS A GREAT DETERRENT.

LOOK, ED -- DO WHAT YOU WANT.

JUST HURRY UP. YOUR FOOD'S GETTING COLD.

I'LL BE THERE IN --

RIIIIIIIIING!

THOMPSON RESIDENCE.

HEY, MOM. IT'S ZACK.

I'D HOPE SO. YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON WHO SHOULD BE CALLING ME "MOM."

ARE YOU OKAY? YOU DON'T SOUND SO HOT.

I'M ... I DON'T KNOW.

THIS TRIP'S NOT WORKING OUT SO GREAT.

IS DAD AROUND?

YEAH, HE'S JUST ABOUT FINISHED DYEING HIS HAIR AGAIN.

IS THAT ZACK?!

I WANNA TALK TO HIM!

HE WANTS TO TALK TO YOU.

DUDE! WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

HOW'S THE AMAZON? IS IT CRAZY?

I BET IT'S SUPER CRAZY.

LOOK, I... I NEED YOU TO BE DISCREET ABOUT SOMETHING.

I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT TO DO HERE.

DON'T TELL MOM, BUT LIN AND I...

...WE TRIED TO GET INTIMATE.

BUT... WELL, I DUNNO HOW TO PUT THIS... GELDARIANS AND HUMANS... THEY'RE NOT EXACTLY COMPATIBLE.

OUR PARTS DON'T... WELL, Y'KNOW.

I THOUGHT I SAID NO HANKY PANKY!

AM... AM I ON SPEAKER PHONE?

ZACK, I TRUSTED YOU TO KEEP IT IN YOUR PANTS.

AW, C'MON, LYNN! DON'T CHASTISE THE DOOR GUY!

HE ALREADY FEELS HORRIBLE!

YOUR FATHER'S RIGHT.

YOU'RE HURTING. WE'RE HERE FOR YOU.

IT JUST WENT DOWN. I'M CLEARING MY HEAD NOW.

SO, WHAT HAPPENED?

AFTER WE REALIZED, Y'KNOW... WE JUST SAT HERE... AND WANTED TO TALK...

AND WHAT DID YOU DO?

I JUST ASKED, "WHAT'S THERE TO TALK ABOUT?"

OH, DUDE. NO.

YEAH, I ALREADY GET I REALLY SCREWED UP.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO HERE.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE OVERTHINKING IT, ZACK...

...HOW ABOUT JUST TALKING WITH HER?

WELL, SHE'S GONE NOW.

I THINK SHE WENT BACK TO GELDARIA.

WELL, THERE'S NO USE WALLOWING IN WHAT HAPPENED.

FOCUS ON WHAT TO DO NOW.

YOU'RE STILL DOWN IN COSTA RICA, RIGHT?

EXPLORE WHAT'S THERE ON YOUR OWN.

THINK THINGS THROUGH.

I SHOULD PROBABLY GET BACK TO WORK.

ZACK, DON'T BE STUPID. YOU'RE NOT READY.

GO CLEAR YOUR HEAD.

YOUR FATHER WILL CALL IF THE WORLD NEEDS SAVING.

I'LL TELEPORT ON UP RIGHT NOW!

AND ZACK?

YEAH, MOM?

WE'RE GONNA HAVE A LONG TALK WHEN YOU GET BACK.

FOR NOW, NEVER BREAK A PROMISE TO ME AGAIN.

UNDERSTOOD.

CLICK.

=SIGH=

SLOW DOWN, JAMES!

DON'T YOU SEE THAT?

YOU WANT ME TO SLOW DOWN? ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR DAMNED MIND, MARLEY?

WHEN THE SKY STARTS FALLING, THE LAST THING I'M GONNA DO IS PULL OVER AND TAKE A PEEK.

BUT WHAT IF SOMEONE'S HURT?

THEN SOMEONE'S HURT.

THOOM!

"NOT MY PROBLEM."

FINALLY.

REPORT MY ARRIVAL TO THE CLIENT.

TARGET WILL BE ACQUIRED SHORTLY.

BLEET.

REPORTING TO CLIENT, NULL. ANYTHING ELSE I CAN HELP YOU WITH?

NO.

I CAN HANDLE MY OWN... RECONNAISSANCE.

BRAKKA-BA-DOOM!

I F-FOUGHT... IN KOREA...

WILL TEAR YOU APART...

I'M SURE.

I'LL NEED SOME INFORMATION FIRST. I HAVEN'T BEEN TO THIS PLANET BEFORE.

SKRUNCH

MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH

THERE WE GO.

NOW I KNOW ALL I NEED.

I THANK YOU.

TIME TO HIT THE TOWN.

NOW ENTERING DEERFIELD KANSAS

POPULATION 823

BWAP.

I APPRECIATE YOU TAKING THE TIME TO TALK.

IT'S LONELY OUT HERE WITHOUT LIN.

BUT I SHOULD REALLY GET GOING HOME.

I CAN'T ENJOY THIS WITHOUT HER.

THE TRIP WAS SUPPOSED TO BE *OUR* THING, Y'KNOW?

AND, YEAH -- BOTCHED IT PRETTY HARD.

POSSIBLY FOR THE LAST TIME.

BWAP.

THAT'S A FINE POINT.

I APPRECIATE YOUR OPTIMISM.

HEY!

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?

BWAP!

...LOVELY.

AT LEAST YOU TWO HAVE IT FIGURED OUT.

BWAP.

BWAP.

PING. PING.

ZACK! YOU READ ME?!

YEAH, DAD.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WE DETECTED A... OH, DUDE... WHAT DO YOU CALL IT? SOMETHING FELL FROM SPACE. WE DETECTED IT.

SOMEWHERE IN RURAL KANSAS.

ALL RIGHT. AND?

WELL, THEN THE NEARBY TOWN, WELL... THE POLICE BAND WENT NUTS FOR A BIT, BUT ALL COMMUNICATION... JUST STOPPED. I THINK THEY WERE ATTACKED.

AND YOU THINK IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH WHATEVER CRASHED DOWN?

IT'S KINDA A WEIRD COINCIDENCE IF IT DOESN'T, DON'T YOU THINK?

SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING A "SPACE GUARDIAN" SHOULD DEAL WITH.

I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT, DAD.

YOU'RE ON IT TODAY.

AW, THANKS!

I'LL UPLOAD COORDINATES TO YOUR ARMOR NOW!

SOUNDS LIKE I GOTTA GO.

I'LL SEE YOU GUYS LATER.

BEHAVE YOURSELVES.

BWAP.

NOW WE'RE TALKING!

I COULD GO FOR A LITTLE SPACE GUARDIAN-ING.

AND THEN...

UM. DAD?

ARE YOU SURE THOSE COORDINATES WERE CORRECT?

YEAH, BUD -- WHY?

BECAUSE ALL I'M SEEING IS A CRATER. A REAL BIG CRATER.

THAT DOESN'T SOUND RIGHT.

I DIDN'T DETECT ANYTHING ELSE CRASHING FROM SPACE.

AND NOTHING THAT BIG.

ON A CLOSER LOOK -- I'M NOT SO SURE THIS IS A CRATER.

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANYTHING LANDED HERE.

IT ACTUALLY LOOKS LIKE IT WAS...

...DUG OUT.

BRRE!T! BRRE!T!

ZACK! I JUST DETECTED THE TOWN!

UM, WHERE?

IT'S INCOMING FROM ABOVE!

HOLY CRAP.

KABOOM!!!

ZACK!!!

DETECT THE ARMOR. AND HURRY.
I'M EAGER TO LEAVE THIS MUDBALL.
PROCESSING...

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE...

THRWRAK!

...BUT YOU'RE A REAL DICK!

THIS WON'T LAST LONG.

I AIM TO END YOU SWIFTLY.

I'LL PASS.

THRAMM!

WHAT CHANCE DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE?

I'VE ALREADY TORN YOUR EARTH APART TO DESTROY YOU.

HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE LIVED THERE!

YOU MURDERED AN ENTIRE TOWN JUST TO -- WHAT?! SLOW ME DOWN?!

PRECISELY.

AND YET YOU STILL RESIST.

THIS SHOULD BE AMUSING.

THROOM! THROOM! THROOM! THROOM! THROOM! THROOM!

YOU'RE DAMN RIGHT I 'RESIST!'

=SIGH.=

LASERS?

REALLY?

OKAY.

THROOM!

THROOM!

CONTINUE TO FIRE.

SEE WHAT IT DOES FOR YOU.

I CAN DO A WHOLE LOT MORE THAN LASERS, BUDDY!

I'M SURE.

I'D LOVE TO SEE WHAT ELSE YOU'RE CAPABLE OF.

SKRAAAAOSSHH!!!

LET'S START ON THE INSIDE.

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAGGGGGHH!!!

I'LL ASSUME THE CLIENT CAN REPAIR YOUR ARMOR.

I'VE GROWN TOO IMPATIENT TO CARE OTHERWISE.

BUT FOR GOOD MEASURE--

I'LL MAKE SURE YOU'RE GONE.

KRAKKA-THRAMM!

THRAMM!

THRAMM! THRAMM!

BLEET.

YOUR ARMOR'S ACQUIRED.

PROCESS MY INVOICE.

IT'S ACQUIRED? ALREADY?

WHAT ABOUT THE BEARER? WHAT'S HIS STATUS?

DECEASED.

JOE KEATINGE • KHARY RANDOLPH • EMILIO LOPEZ

TECH JACKET

DIGITAL

image

SKYBOUND

3

TECH JACKET™

DIGITAL

JOE KEATINGE
writer

KHARY RANDOLPH
penciler, inker

EMILIO LOPEZ
colorist

RUS WOOTON
letterer

SEAN MACKIEWICZ
editor

Cover by
KHARY RANDOLPH
EMILIO LOPEZ

Created by
ROBERT KIRKMAN & E.J. SU

IMAGE COMICS INC

IMAGECOMICS.COM

SKYBOUND

For SKYBOUND ENTERTAINMENT

Robert Kirkman CEO
J.J. Didde President
Sean Mackiewicz Editorial Director
Shawn Kirkham Director of Business Development
Brian Huntington Online Editorial Director
Helen Leigh Office Manager
Fadiman Public Relations LA Public Relations

For international rights inquiries
please contact: foreign@skybound.com

WWW.SKYBOUND.COM

TECH JACKET DIGITAL #3. January 2014. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2001 Center Street, Sixth Floor, Berkeley, California 94704.

Copyright © 2014 Robert Kirkman, LLC and E.J. Su. All rights reserved. TECH JACKET™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® is a trademark of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental.

DIGITAL EDITION.

J-JUST -- =KAFF= HEADS UP, NULL...

...I'M STILL ALIVE, Y'KNOW.

MORE OR LESS.

I'M WELL AWARE.

I'VE BEEN DOING THIS FOR A LONG TIME.

LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW WHEN THE END IS INEVITABLE.

I --

=KAKK!=

THROOM!

QUIET DOWN. I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR RESISTANCE.

YOU SEE -- THIS? RIGHT NOW?

THIS IS THE END OF YOU.

...ZACK...

...OH, BUDDY, NO...

AW, C'MON, ED! GET IT TOGETHER, GET IT TOGETHER!

CALL IN SOME HELP ALREADY!

KANDA! CAN YOU READ ME?!

IT'S ED! ZACK'S DAD! IT'S AN EMERGENCY!

LOUD AND CLEAR, MR. THOMPSON.

HOW MAY I BE OF ASSISTANCE?

HOW FAST CAN YOU GUYS BOOK IT TO KANSAS?

ZACK'S IN A WHOLE LOTTA TROUBLE!

WE'LL MAKE DUE HASTE, BUT IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME.

OUR ARMOR DOESN'T HAVE THE SPEED ZACK'S DOES -- OR OUR SHIPS FOR THAT MATTER.

WHAT ABOUT THE PRINCESS? IS SHE IN DANGER?

NO, SHE --

LIN!

LIN'S GOT A SHIP!

COME ON, COME ON, PICK UP, PICK UP...!

HELLO...?

LIN! IT'S ZACK'S DAD!

IS THERE ANY CHANCE YOU'RE STILL ON EARTH?! YOU GOT ONE OF THOSE SUPER-FAST GELDARIAN SHIPS, RIGHT?!

UM. HI, MR. THOMPSON.

YEAH. I AM -- AND YEAH, I DO.

WHAT'S UP?

IT'S ZACK! HE -- OH, MAN, I REALLY MESSED UP AND SET HIM ON SOMETHING REAL BAD GOING ON IN KANSAS AND I DON'T THINK HE WAS READY AND --

IS HE OKAY?

IT'S, UH -- IT'S NOT LOOKING LIKE IT.

SEND ME THE COORDINATES.

I'M ON MY WAY.

I WILL GRANT YOU ONE SOLE REPRIEVE.

KRAMM!!!

UNH!

I PROMISE TO MAKE HASTE.

DOOM!!!

I'LL BRING YOUR DEATH SWIFTLY.

REALLY?!

YOU STILL BELIEVE YOU HAVE FIGHT LEFT IN YOU?!

FINE.

I'LL SHOW YOU TRUE PAIN.

KRAK!

AAARRRRGGGHH!!!

SKRAKKAZARRAT!!!

L-LIN...?

GET THE $&@# AWAY FROM MY BOYFRIEND.

ZACK! C'MON!
I'M GETTING YOU OUT OF HERE!
=KAFF!=
BUT--
MOVE!
WHAT HOPE DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE HERE?
I DESTROYED AN ENTIRE TOWN ON A WHIM.
I TORE THE STRONGEST GELDARIAN ARMOR FROM THE INSIDE OUT.
THIS IS JUST ANOTHER DAY ON THE JOB FOR ME.
SO, ALL THIS IS YOUR JOB?
KICKING SOMEONE'S ASS IS YOUR LIVING?
GREAT.
I'M GELDARIAN!
KICKING SOMEONE'S ASS IS MY LINEAGE!

QUAINT. AND SO HEARTFELT.

YET ULTIMATELY SO FUTILE.

NOTHING ON THIS EARTH CAN STOP ME.

YOU SHOULD KNOW I DO TAKE JOY IN THIS.

KILLING HIM'S JUST A JOB.

SLAUGHTERING YOU'S A PERK.

GIVE IT A SHOT!

LIN!

'NOTHING ON THIS EARTH.' OH, MAN.

SUIT, RUN A DIAGNOSTIC.

WHAT AM I WORKING WITH?

TOTAL POWER LEVEL IS AT 20%

ELECTRICAL... 5%

COMMUNICATIONS... 5%

DEFENSES... 5%

WEAPONRY... 5%

ANY WAY I CAN REROUTE ALL POWER TO PROPULSIONS?

POSSIBLE, BUT NOT ADVISABLE.

SUIT INSTABILITY IS GUARANTEED. DAMAGE ESTIMATED TO BE CATASTROPHIC.

MAKE IT HAPPEN.

LEAVE JUST ENOUGH FOR A BURST TRANSMISSION TO THE SATELLITE.

I GOTTA WARN DAD.

REROUTING...

YOU WANT ME TO WHAT?!

GET THE HELL OUT OF THERE, DAD!

NOW!

BUT WHY?!

JUST GO!

ZACK!

KRAKKADOOM!

LIN, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I --

THE JACKET!

I KNOW.

ZACK!!!

NO!!!

BOOM

TECH JACKET CORE UNSTABLE.

SHUT DOWN COMMENCING TO ENSURE --

BYPASS.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU DON'T HAVE LONG, BOY.

YOU LOOK EVEN WORSE.

I'VE SEEN THIS ALL PLAY OUT BEFORE. MORE TIMES THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE.

SHUT DOWN BYPASSED. TECH JACKET COMPROMISED.

I GET IT.

YOU THINK YOU'RE A HERO. YOU THINK THIS GIVES YOU HOPE.

BUT THIS ISN'T GOOD VERSUS EVIL.

THIS IS ALL JUST BUSINESS.

JUST A JOB.

AND I'LL SEE IT THROUGH TO THE END.

COMPLETE SYSTEM COLLAPSE INEVITABLE.

YOU AND ME BOTH.

WARNING! SATELLITE POWER CORE COMPROMISED!

I DO ADMIRE YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE.

SUCH RESILIENCE IS RARE.

KATHROOM!

TOTAL STRUCTURE MELTDOWN IMMINENT! EVACUATION STRONGLY ADVISED!

YOUR SUIT'S GONE QUIET. YOUR SATELLITE HASN'T STOPPED ME.

YOU'RE ALONE NOW. NOTHING LEFT TO DO BUT DIE.

TELEPORTATION CHAMBER ACTIVATED! DESTINATION REVISED!

JUST ABOUT.

SHOVING ME THROUGH YOUR TELEPORTER?!

THAT'S YOUR BIG PLAN?

THROOM!

WHEREVER YOU'RE SENDING ME WON'T BE FAR ENOUGH!

I'LL TEAR THIS UNIVERSE APART TO DESTROY YOU!

KRIZZZZZ...

...KRAZZZA!

YEAH, WELL.

GOOD LUCK, ASSHOLE.

THRAKKA-
WHATHAPPENED!!!

C'MON, YOU BIG JERK.

WAKE UP ALREADY.

OH, MAN...

...EVERYTHING HURTS.

DUDE!

FINALLY.

I, LIN--

YEAH?

I AM REALLY SICK OF HOSPITALS.

HOLY CRAP, MAN!

THAT WAS TOTALLY BAD ASS! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU--

KANDA, THE SATELLITE, AND, MAN, THE JACKET -- I'M SO SORRY.

NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE, ZACK.

YOU DID WHAT WAS NECESSARY.

GELDARIANS... WE'RE NOW PERCEIVED AS A WARRIOR RACE.

BUT IT'S NOT TRUE.

WE DEVELOPED THESE SUITS OUT OF NECESSITY. WHEN OUR SOCIETY BECAME TOO HARSH TO EXIST IN AS IS. WHEN OUR WORLDS WERE SCORCHED AND REQUIRED EVOLUTION.

WE'LL DO NOW WHAT WE DID THEN -- WHAT WE'VE ALWAYS DONE.

"WE REBUILD."

YOU'RE LOOKING PRETTY GOOD THERE, MISTER.

I'M FEELING PRETTY GOOD.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A MONTH MAKES.

SO, MY DAD... HE SAYS I GOTTA GO. LIKE, ACROSS THE GALAXY.

I GET IT.

YOU'RE A SPACE PRINCESS. YOU GOTTA DO SPACE DIPLOMACY.

IT SUCKS YOU'LL BE GONE, BUT IT'S KINDA YOUR JOB, RIGHT?

WHENEVER YOU'RE BACK, THOUGH... WELL... YOU AND ME?

I'M HOPING IT'S STILL "YOU AND ME."

YOU SURE?

WHAT ABOUT... Y'KNOW?

WE'LL MAKE IT WORK.

LISTEN, IF YOU'VE EVER GOTTA, UM, TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS -- I GET IT.

CONSIDERING... YEAH.

YOU TOO, OF COURSE, BUT, LOOK, I JUST WANT --

YOU AND ME?

YOU AND ME.

NO.

JOE KEATINGE • KHARY RANDOLPH • DAVE MCCAIG
image
SKYBOUND
1
TECHJACKET
™

TECH JACKET™

JOE KEATINGE
writer

KHARY RANDOLPH
artist

DAVE MCCAIG
colorist

RUS WOOTON
letterer

KHARY RANDOLPH
EMILIO LOPEZ
Cover

HELEN LEIGH
assistant editor

SEAN MACKIEWICZ
editor

Created by
ROBERT KIRKMAN & E.J. SU

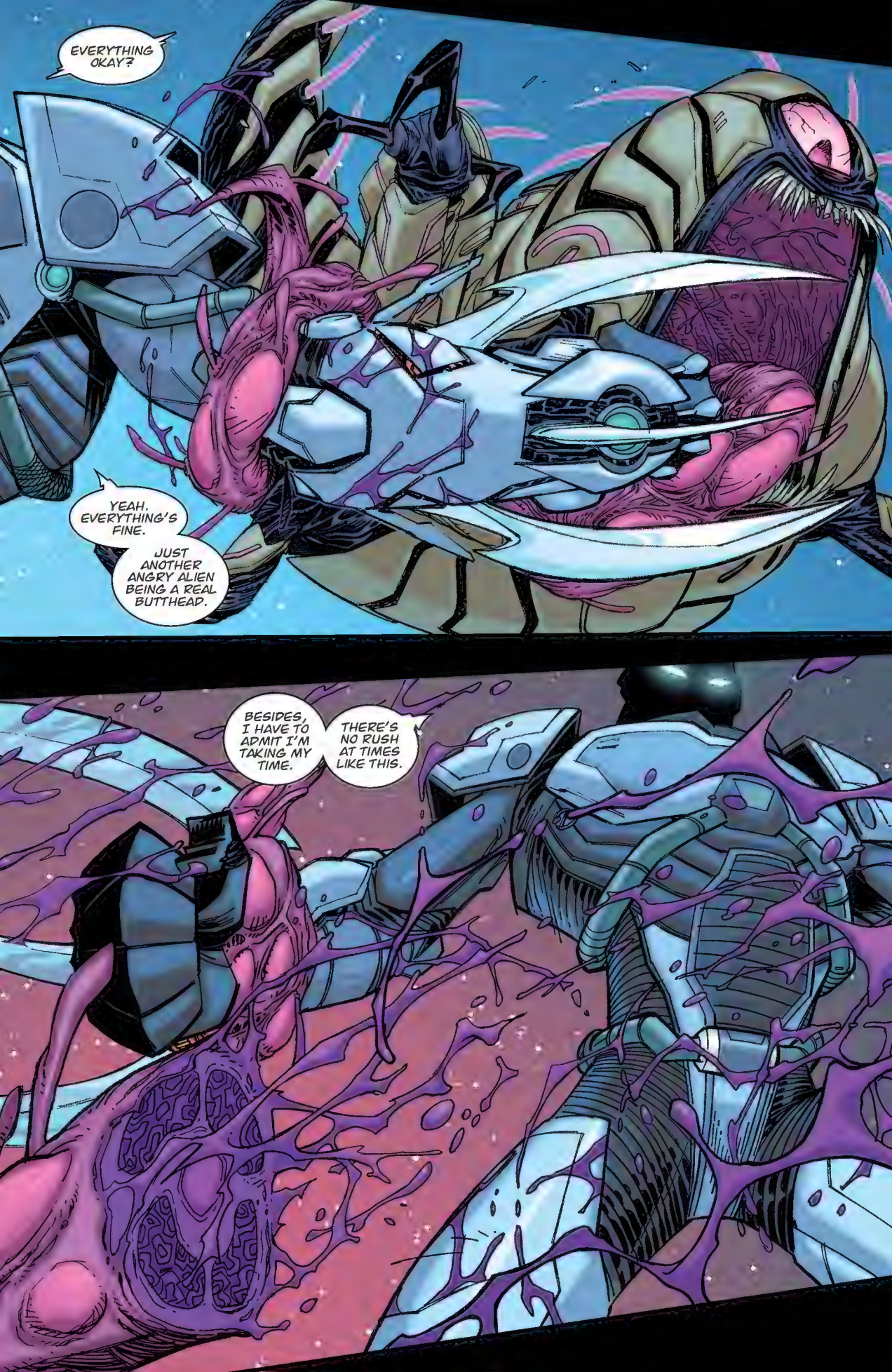
IMAGE COMICS, INC.
Robert Kirkman – Chief Operating Officer
Erik Larsen – Chief Financial Officer
Todd McFarlane – President
Marc Silvestri – Chief Executive Officer
Jim Valentino – Vice-President
Eric Stephenson – Publisher
Ron Richards – Director of Business Development
Jennifer de Guzman – Director of Trade Book Sale
Kat Salazar – Director of PR & Marketing
Jeremy Sullivan – Director of Digital Sales
Emilio Bautista – Sales Assistant
Branwyn Bigglestone – Senior Accounts Manage
Emily Miller – Accounts Manager
Jessica Amoria – Administrative Assistant
Tyler Shainline – Events Coordinator
David Brothers – Content Manager
Jonathan Chan – Production Manager
Drew Gill – Art Director
Meredith Wallace – Print Manager
Monica Garcia – Senior Production Art st
Jenna Savage – Production Artist
Addison Duke – Production Artist
Tricia Ramos – Production Assistant
IMAGECOMICS.COM

SKYBOUND
For SKYBOUND ENTERTAINMENT
Robert Kirkman - CEO
Sean Mackiewicz - Editorial Director
Shawn Kirkham - Director of Business Development
Brian Huntington - Online Editorial Director
June Alian - Publicity Director
Helen Leigh - Assistant Editor
Rachel Skidmore - Office Manager
Lizzy Iverson - Administrative Assistant
Dan Petersen - Operations Manager
Nick Palmer - Operations Coordinator
International inquiries: foreign@skybound.com
Licensing inquiries: contact@skybound.com
WWW.SKYBOUND.COM

TECH JACKET #1, July 2014. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2001 Center Street, Sixth Floor, Berkeley, California 94704. Copyright © 2014 Robert Kirkman, LLC and E.J. Su. All rights reserved. TECH JACKET™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® is a trademark of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. DIGITAL EDITION.

DO YOU THINK WE'RE ALONE, DAD?
MY DAD ALWAYS BRINGS THIS NIGHT UP.
YOU MEAN-- IN THE WHOLE UNIVERSE?
I DON'T KNOW, KIDDO.
THAT'S AN AWFUL LOT OF STARS... AND AREN'T SOME OF THOSE PLANETS?
THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMETHING ALIVE ON ONE OR TWO OF THEM, DON'T YOU THINK?
I BET WE COULD FIND OUT, IF WE HAD A TELESCOPE.
WE SHOULD GET A TELESCOPE.
CAN WE GET A TELESCOPE?
ZACK... COME ON, BUDDY.
YOU KNOW WE CAN'T AFFORD THAT.
DON'T THEY HAVE ONE AT SCHOOL?
MAYBE. I DON'T KNOW.
SCHOOL'S SO BORING.
SPACE SEEMS AWESOME.
WAY MORE AWESOME THAN SCHOOL.
WELL, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT...
...SPACE DOES SEEM PRETTY COOL.
RIGHT?!
THAT WAS THEN.

THIS IS NOW.
YOU READ ME, DAD?
LOUD AND CLEAR, KIDDO.
NOW IS AWESOME.
WAY MORE AWESOME THAN SCHOOL EVER WAS.
I'M READY FOR YOUR ARRIVAL.
JUST GIVE ME THE WORD.
I'M GONNA NEED A SEC!


EVERYTHING OKAY?
YEAH. EVERYTHING'S FINE.
JUST ANOTHER ANGRY ALIEN BEING A REAL BUTTHEAD.
BESIDES, I HAVE TO ADMIT I'M TAKING MY TIME.
THERE'S NO RUSH AT TIMES LIKE THIS.

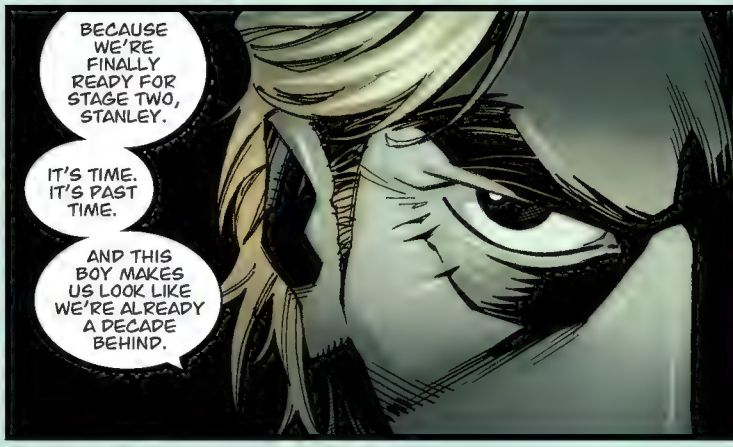
I'VE GOT ONE HELL OF A VIEW.

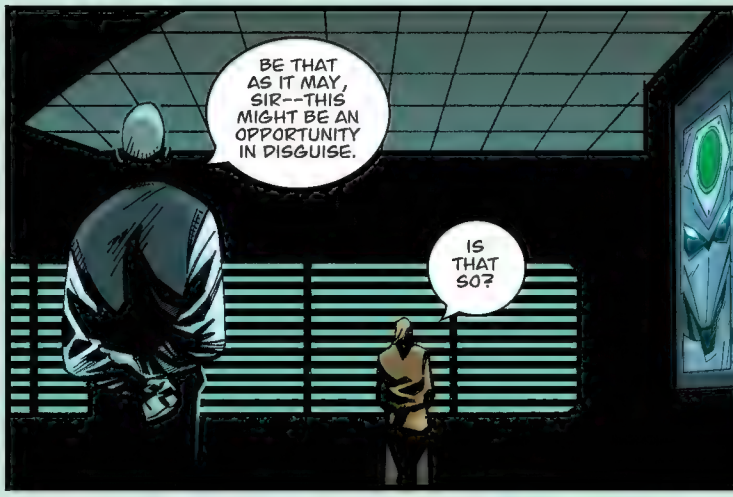
HOW DID ALL THAT GO?
MAN, IT JUST NEVER GETS OLD.
I MEAN, I BEAT JERKS LIKE THIS UP IN OUTER SPACE FOR A LIVING.
IT'S A GREAT WAY TO EARN A BUCK.
WHOA. WAIT.
DID YOU CUT OFF HIS TONGUE?
'FRAID SO.
I'M SURE THERE'S A PRISON DOCTOR WHO CAN SEW IT BACK ON.
WHAT'RE YOU WORKING ON?
UNEMPLOYMENT FORMS.
NOBODY'S PAYING ME TO FLY AROUND.
ON THE PLUS SIDE, YOU'RE NOT PERMANENTLY SEALED IN ALIEN ARMOR.
THAT'S GOTTA COUNT FOR SOMETHING.
>SIGH<
I'D TAKE THE ARMOR ANY DAY.
ALL RIGHT. WHAT'S UP?
THIS IS YOUR "I'M TOO STRESSED TO JUST ADMIT WHAT I'M STRESSED ABOUT" TONE.
YOU'VE NEVER HAD TO FILL ONE OF THESE OUT, HAVE YOU?
THIS IS SERIOUSLY THE WORST.
AW, COME ON. HOW HARD COULD IT BE?

IS THIS YOUR FIRST? IT LOOKS PRETTY MUCH DONE.
BUT I DIDN'T LOOK FOR ANY WORK THIS WEEK!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FILL THAT PART OUT?!
YOU'RE NOT.
SEE? YOU'RE ONLY SUPPOSED TO FILL THAT OUT IF THE BOX HAS A BLACK CHECK MARK.
IT'S EMPTY.
OH.
WELL, THAT'S COOL.
SEE? EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE FINE!
NOTHING'S INVADING THE PLANET RIGHT NOW. EARTH'S ORBIT IS TOTALLY CLEAR.
AND IN JUST OVER A WEEK, YOU'LL GET YOUR FIRST UNEMPLOYMENT CHECK.
ALL'S RIGHT WITH THE WORLD, POP!
I CAN LIVE WITH THAT.
HOW ABOUT WE CELEBRATE WITH A BURGER?
I COULD GO FOR A BURGER.
LET'S GET EARTHBOUND.

ZACK THOMPSON.
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DROP OUT.
ALIAS "TECH JACKET."
SELF-TITLED "GALACTIC GUARDIAN OF EARTH."
THIS IS WHO PROTECTS US FROM WHAT LIES BEYOND OUR WORLD? REALLY?
I THINK HUMANITY DESERVES BETTER, STANLEY.
IN FACT, I DEMAND IT.
I CREATED SATELLITES TO KEEP THE WORLD COMMUNICATING. I CREATED ROCKETS FOR US TO EXPLORE THE WORLDS BEYOND.
THIS WAS ALL TO BETTER US AS A SPECIES, TO PREPARE US FOR OUR EMERGING FUTURE.
ALL I EVER WANTED TO DO WAS INVEST BILLIONS TO EVOLVE US INTO TOMORROW.
AND THIS IS OUR "GALACTIC GUARDIAN?" IT'S INSULTING.
HIS TECHNOLOGY'S GELDARIAN, MR. CROWE.
WE BELIEVE HE'S ESTABLISHED AN ALLIANCE WITH THEM. I EVEN UNDERSTAND HE'S CARRYING ON A RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR PRINCESS.
GELDARIAN? REALLY?
THEY'RE ALREADY SO... WEAK.
WHAT ADVANTAGE COULD THEY HAVE BY ARMING SOMEONE WHO'S LITTLE MORE THAN A BOY?

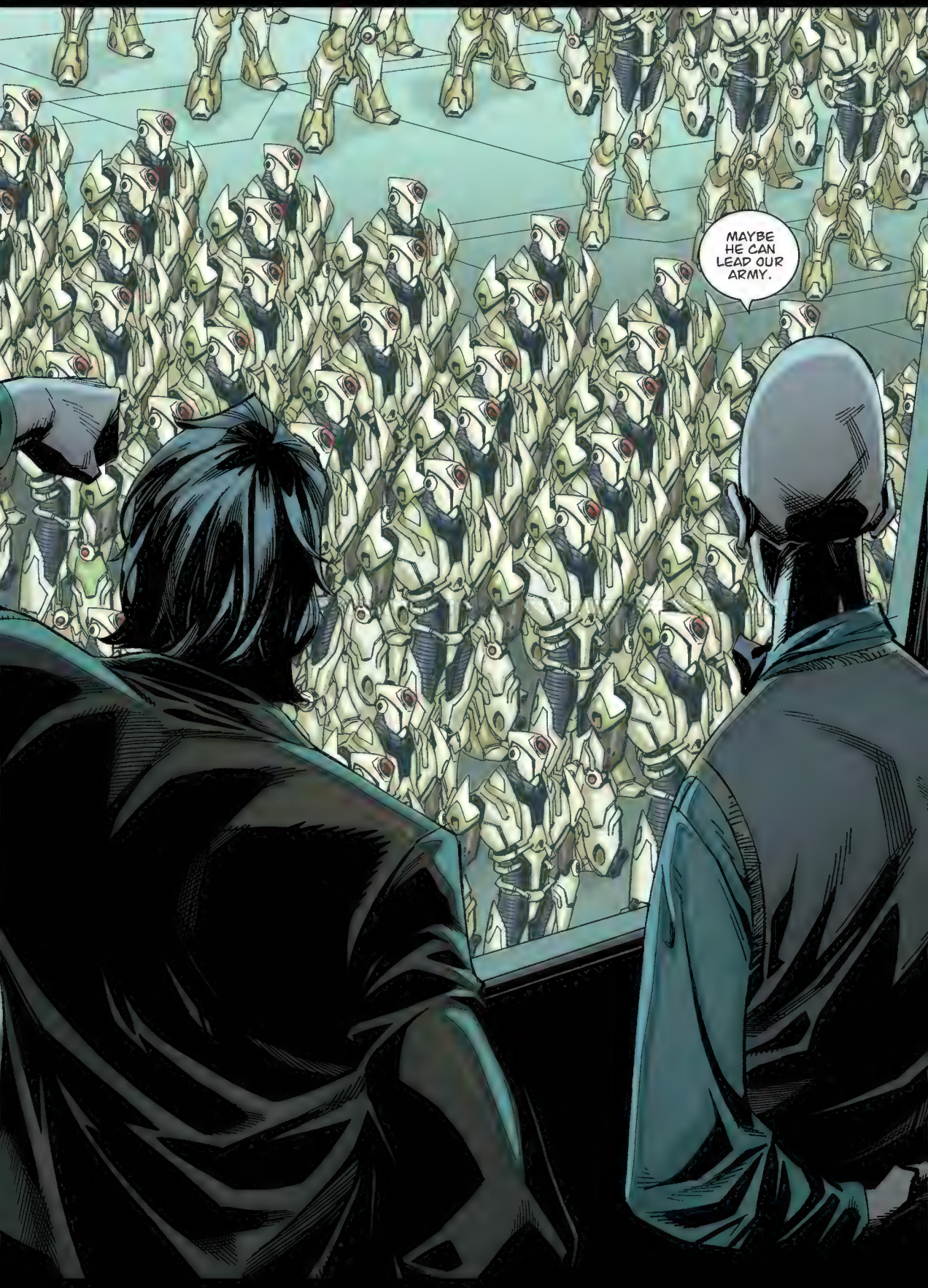
ALL DUE RESPECT, SIR--HE'S BEEN OPERATING FOR YEARS.
WHY BRING THIS UP NOW?


BECAUSE WE'RE FINALLY READY FOR STAGE TWO, STANLEY.
IT'S TIME. IT'S PAST TIME.
AND THIS BOY MAKES US LOOK LIKE WE'RE ALREADY A DECADE BEHIND.


BE THAT AS IT MAY, SIR--THIS MIGHT BE AN OPPORTUNITY IN DISGUISE.
IS THAT SO?

THINK ABOUT IT--HOW DID YOU BUILD THIS EMPIRE?
YOU STARTED OFF WITH AN IDEA. YOU BUILT A BUSINESS BEHIND IT.
WHEN THAT WAS SUCCESSFUL, YOU SOUGHT OUT OTHER BUSINESSES THAT COULD BENEFIT YOURS. YOU PURCHASED THEM. ACQUIRED THEM. MADE THEM YOURS.
CONQUEST THROUGH ACQUISITION.

MAYBE WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS NOT VIEW MR. THOMPSON AS A THREAT.
MAYBE WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS THINK OF HIM AS AN ACQUISITION.
MAYBE HE'S JUST WHAT WE NEED NOW.


MAYBE HE CAN LEAD OUR ARMY.

RISE AND SHINE, BIG GUY!
IT'S ANOTHER DAY OF SAVING THE GALAXY FOR MY FAVORITE SUPERHERO!
I'M NOT A SUPERHERO.
RIGHT. "GALACTIC GUARDIAN."
FORGIVE ME!
ARE THOSE DONUTS?
HECK YEAH, THEY ARE!
I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO EAT HEALTHY BECAUSE YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S COMING TO VISIT, BUT HOT DAMN, BUDDY--SOMETIMES YOU JUST NEED TO EAT A DONUT!
HEH. ALL RIGHT. I'LL BE RIGHT UP.
YOU GONNA GO AHEAD AND TELEPORT TO THE STATION?
SURE AM! I HATE WAITING FOR YOU!
THIS IS THE BEST PART OF MY DAY!

HOT DAMN.
I NEVER GET SICK OF TELEPORTING.
HOW'S EVERYTHING LOOKING?
WE GET ANY MESSAGES?
YEAH, HEY! IT'S LOOKING LIKE WE'VE GOT A FEW.
MOST OF IT IS PRETTY MUCH BUSINESS AS USUAL.
SOLAR FLARE REPORTS. INTERGALACTIC WEATHER CONDITIONS.
HERE WE GO! YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S WRITTEN IN AND --
HOLY CRAP.
THAT'S NO GOOD.

WHAT DID SHE SAY? IS SHE ALL RIGHT?
TURN ON THE TV, ZACK.
THE TV?! I COULD JUST COME UP.
JUST TRUST ME HERE. IT'LL BE QUICKER.
QUICKER THAN TELEPORTING?
I'M TELLING YOU...
FINE, FINE, FINE. I'LL--
HOLY CRAP.
THAT'S NO GOOD.

...ARRIVED JUST ALONGSIDE MERCURY'S ORBIT, WITHOUT ANY EVIDENCE OF HOW IT ARRIVED THERE OR WHERE IT ORIGINATED FROM.

CURRENT ESTIMATES HAVE THE OBJECT'S TOTAL LENGTH TO BE NEARLY THE SIZE OF EURASIA, APPROXIMATELY 20,000,000 SQUARE MILES.

WE'LL CONTINUE TO BRING YOU LIVE UPDATES AS THEY ARRIVE.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HECK THAT IS, BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE ANYTHING THAT HUGE CAN BE ANYTHING THAT GOOD.

YOU KNOW?

ZACK?

YOU SEEING THIS, BUD?

THAT'S ONE BIG-ASS SPACE SHIP.

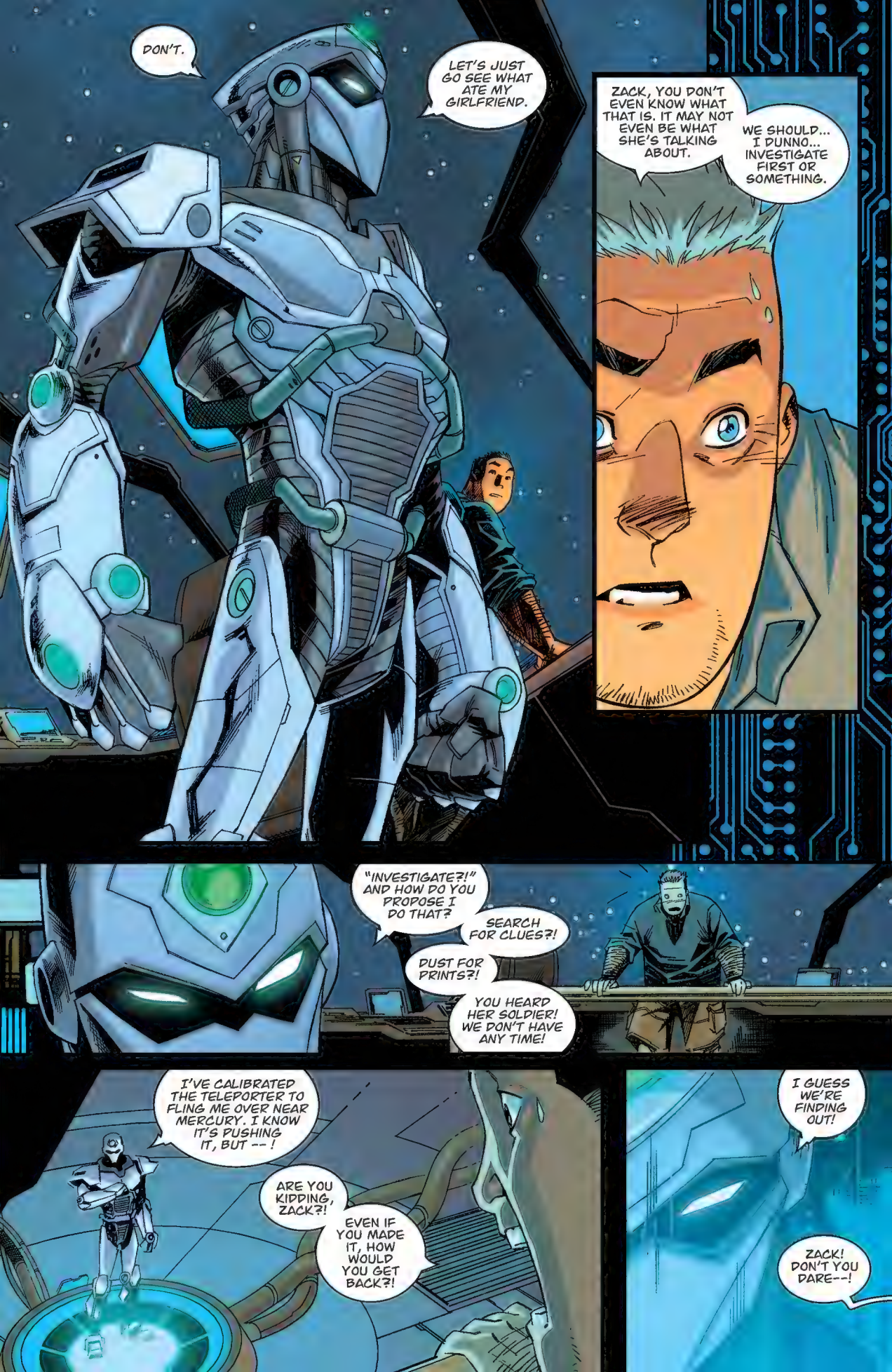
ZACK...?

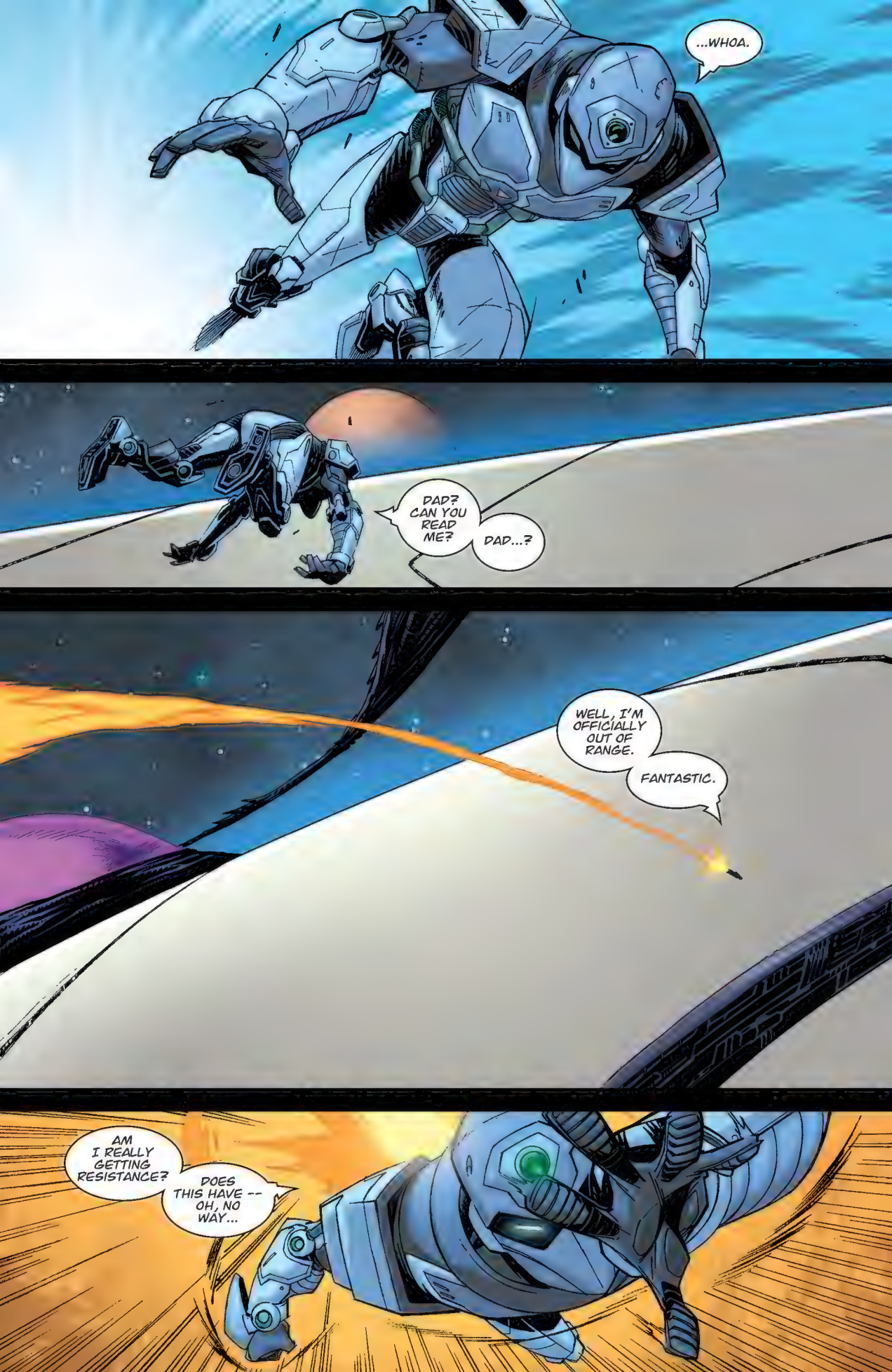
...I'LL BE RIGHT UP.

LISTEN, ZACK...
...I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE IT.
I DON'T THINK I'M EVER GOING TO MAKE IT.
SOMETHING'S REALLY, REALLY WRONG.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
WE NEED TO EVACUATE!
JUST A SECOND!
I HAVE TO WARN THEM!
THERE'S NO TIME!
IF IT'S COMING THEIR WAY, THEY'RE ALREADY DEAD!
BUT -- !
WE'RE LEAVING!

ZACK! PLEASE! =SZZK= -- HEAR ME!
=SZZK= LATE, BUT -- =SZZK=
=SZZK= OUR FAULT!
I'M SO SORRY!
I DUNNO, BUD... SHE'S PROBABLY OKAY...

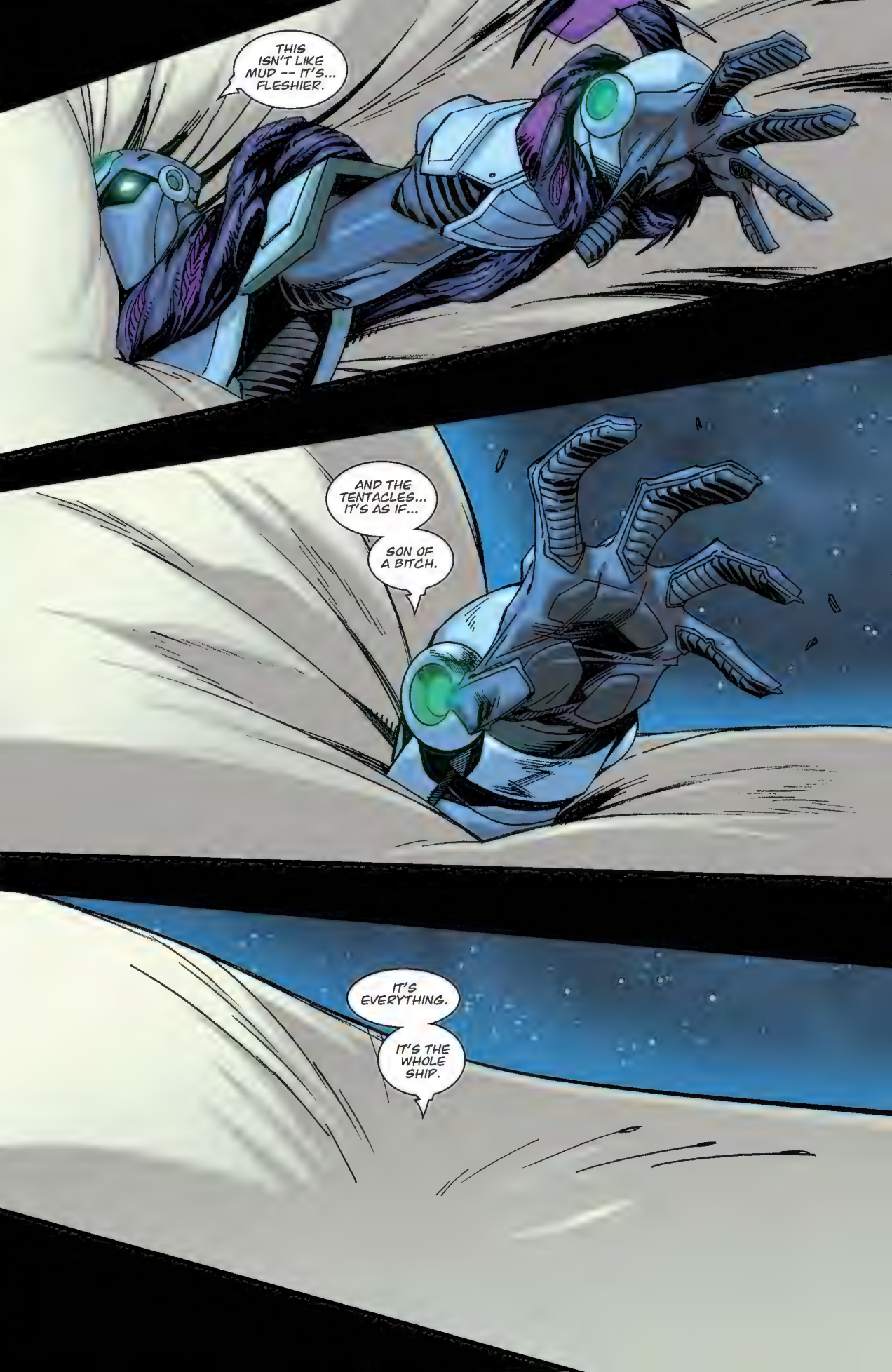
KRAKKO!
AAAARRRAAAAAGHHHH!
THAT DIDN'T SOUND LIKE HER... I'M SURE SHE'S--


DON'T.
LET'S JUST GO SEE WHAT ATE MY GIRLFRIEND.
ZACK, YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT IS. IT MAY NOT EVEN BE WHAT SHE'S TALKING ABOUT.
WE SHOULD... I DUNNO... INVESTIGATE FIRST OR SOMETHING.
"INVESTIGATE?!" AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE I DO THAT?
SEARCH FOR CLUES?!
DUST FOR PRINTS?!
YOU HEARD HER SOLDIER! WE DON'T HAVE ANY TIME!
I'VE CALIBRATED THE TELEPORTER TO FLING ME OVER NEAR MERCURY. I KNOW IT'S PUSHING IT, BUT -- !
ARE YOU KIDDING, ZACK?!
EVEN IF YOU MADE IT, HOW WOULD YOU GET BACK?!
I GUESS WE'RE FINDING OUT!
ZACK! DON'T YOU DARE--!


...WHOA.
DAD? CAN YOU READ ME?
DAD...?
WELL, I'M OFFICIALLY OUT OF RANGE.
FANTASTIC.
AM I REALLY GETTING RESISTANCE?
DOES THIS HAVE -- OH, NO WAY...

DOES THIS THING HAVE ITS OWN ATMOSPHERE?!
ALL RIGHT.
THIS IS OFFICIALLY MORE THAN I'VE HANDLED.
I GOTTA RECORD EVERYTHING.
ESPECIALLY IF I'M ALONE.

!!!
UNGH!


THIS ISN'T LIKE MUD -- IT'S... FLESHIER.
AND THE TENTACLES... IT'S AS IF...
SON OF A BITCH.
IT'S EVERYTHING.
IT'S THE WHOLE SHIP.

IT'S ALIVE.

JOE KEATINGE • KHARY RANDOLPH • DAVE MCCAIG
image
SKYBOUND
2
TECHJACKET
2011

TECH JACKET™

JOE KEATINGE
writer

KHARY RANDOLPH
artist

DAVE MCCAIG
colorist

RUS WOOTON
letterer

KHARY RANDOLPH
EMILIO LOPEZ
Cover

HELEN LEIGH
assistant editor

SEAN MACKIEWICZ
editor

Created by
ROBERT KIRKMAN & E.J. SU

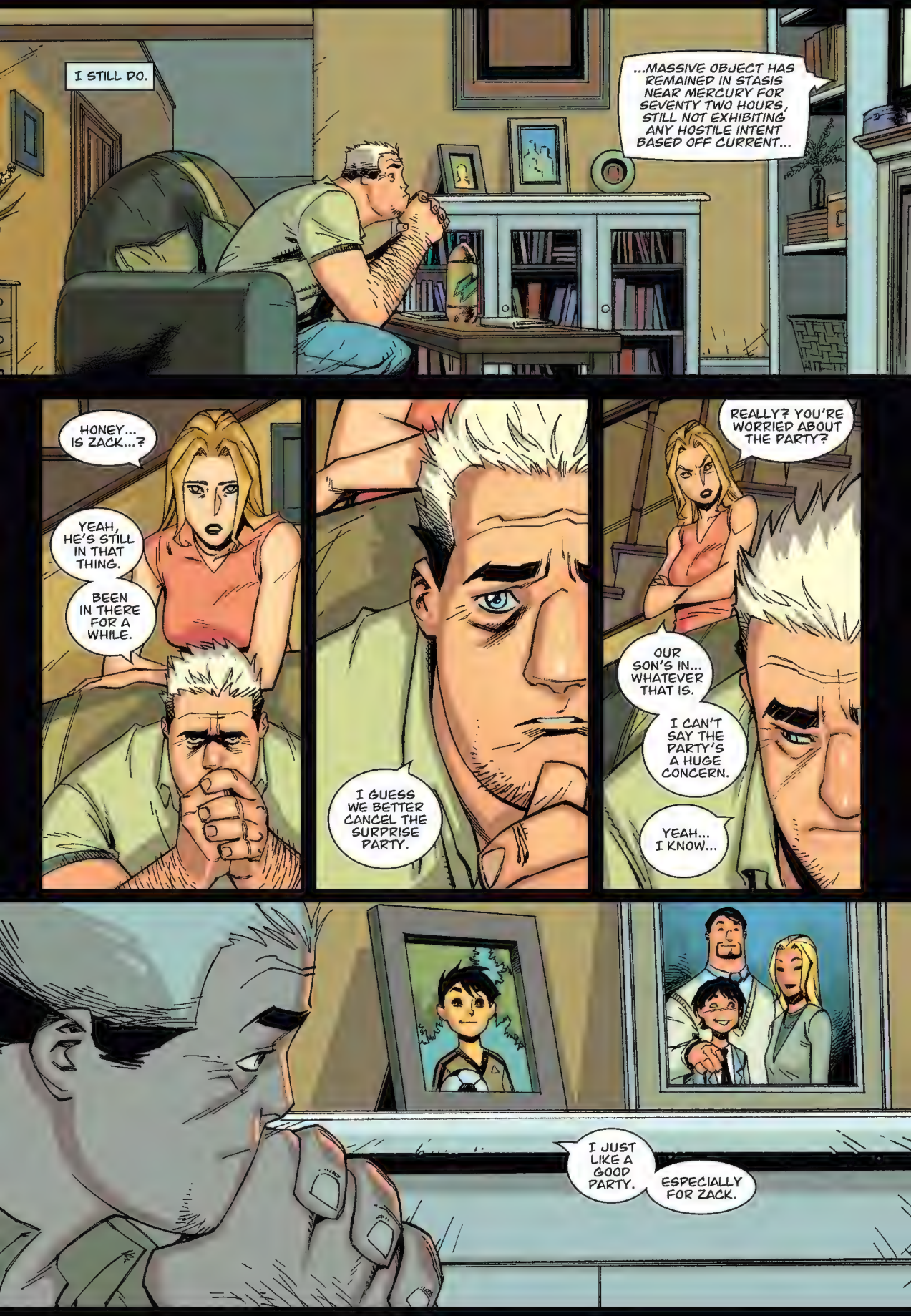
IMAGE COMICS, INC.
Robert Kirkman – Chief Operating Officer
Erik Larsen – Chief Financial Officer
Todd McFarlane – President
Marc Silvestri – Chief Executive Officer
Jim Valentino – Vice-President

Eric Stephenson – Publisher
Ron Richards – Director of Business Development
Jennifer de Guzman – Director of Trade Book Sale
Kat Salazar – Director of PR & Marketing
Jeremy Sullivan – Director of Digital Sales
Emilio Bautista – Sales Assistant
Branwyn Bigglestone – Senior Accounts Manage
Emily Miller – Accounts Manager
Jessica Ambriz – Administrative Assistant
Tyler Shainline – Events Coordinator
David Brothers – Content Manager
Jonathan Chan – Production Manager
Drew Gill – Art Director
Meredith Wallace – Print Manager
Monica Garcia – Senior Production Artist
Jenna Savage – Production Artist
Addison Duke – Production Artist
Tricia Ramos – Production Assistant
IMAGECOMICS.COM

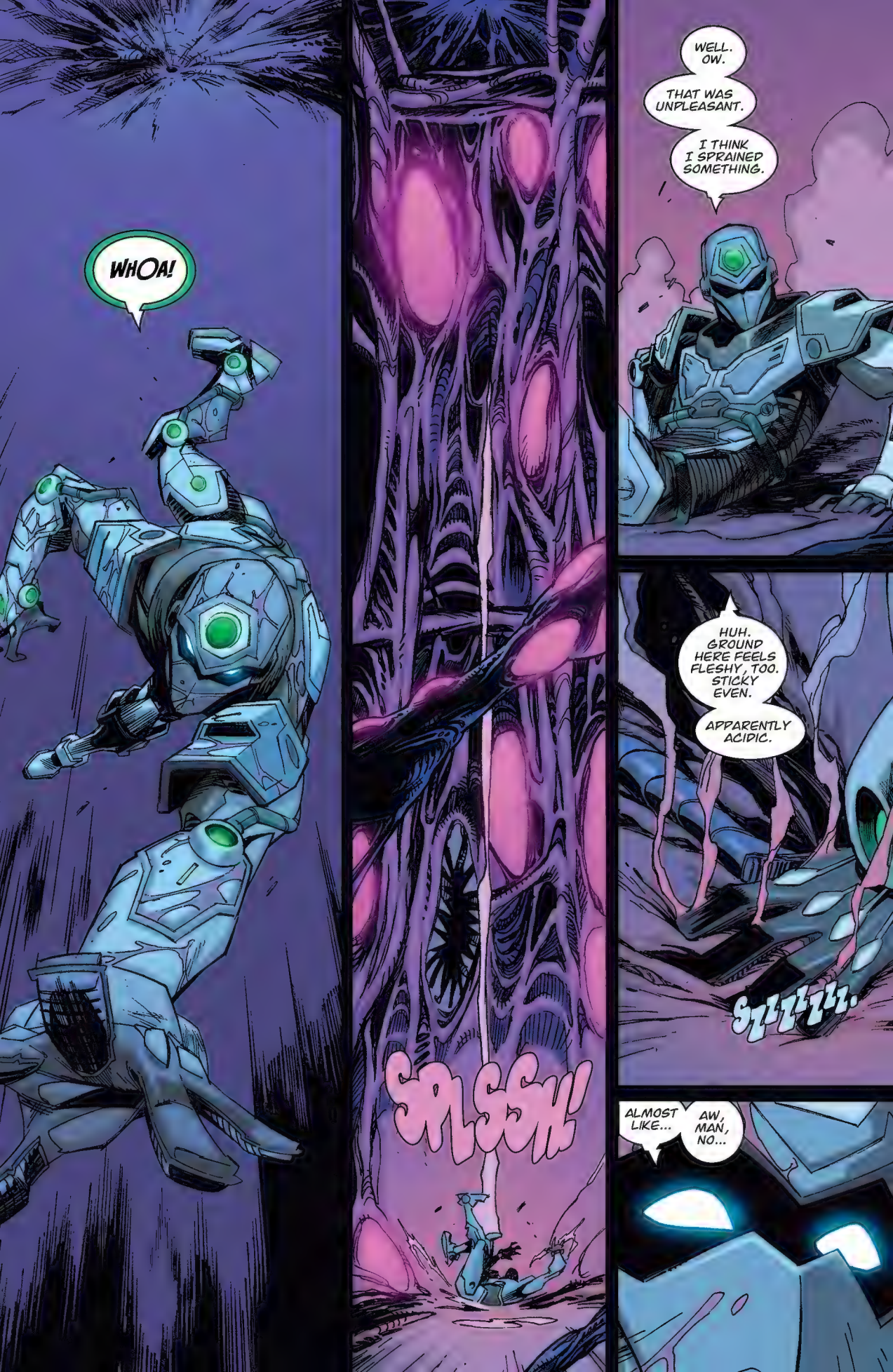
SKYBOUND
For SKYBOUND ENTERTAINMENT
Robert Kirkman CEO
Sean Mackiewicz Editorial Director
Shawn Kirkham Director of Business Development
Brian Huntington Online Editorial Director
June Alian Publicity Director
Helen Leigh Assistant Editor
Rachel Skidmore Office Manager
Lizzy Iverson Administrative Assistant
Dan Petersen Operations Manager
Nick Palmer Operations Coordinator
International inquiries: foreign@skybound.com
Licensing inquiries: contact@skybound.com
WWW.SKYBOUND.COM

TECH JACKET #2. August 2014. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2001 Center Street, Sixth Floor, Berkeley, California 94704. Copyright © 2014 Robert Kirkman, LLC and E.J. Su. All rights reserved. TECH JACKET™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® is a trademark of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. DIGITAL EDITION.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KIDDO!
I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE ZACK USED TO BE SO YOUNG.
HOLY CRAP, DAD! IS THIS WHAT I THINK IT IS?!
I DUNNO! DO YOU THINK IT'S A TOTALLY BITCHIN' PRESENT?
WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE!
BUT I ONLY SAID--!
OH. HEY.
A SPACE SHIP.
HECK YEAH IT'S A SPACE SHIP!
ISN'T IT THE COOLEST?
SURE. MOSTLY.
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A TELESCOPE.
...YEAH.
NOT THIS BIRTHDAY, KIDDO.
MAYBE NEXT YEAR.
I HATED LETTING HIM DOWN, EVEN THOUGH I ALWAYS DID.


I STILL DO.
...MASSIVE OBJECT HAS REMAINED IN STASIS NEAR MERCURY FOR SEVENTY TWO HOURS, STILL NOT EXHIBITING ANY HOSTILE INTENT BASED OFF CURRENT...
HONEY... IS ZACK...?
YEAH, HE'S STILL IN THAT THING.
BEEN IN THERE FOR A WHILE.
I GUESS WE BETTER CANCEL THE SURPRISE PARTY.
REALLY? YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THE PARTY?
OUR SON'S IN... WHATEVER THAT IS.
I CAN'T SAY THE PARTY'S A HUGE CONCERN.
YEAH... I KNOW...
I JUST LIKE A GOOD PARTY.
ESPECIALLY FOR ZACK.

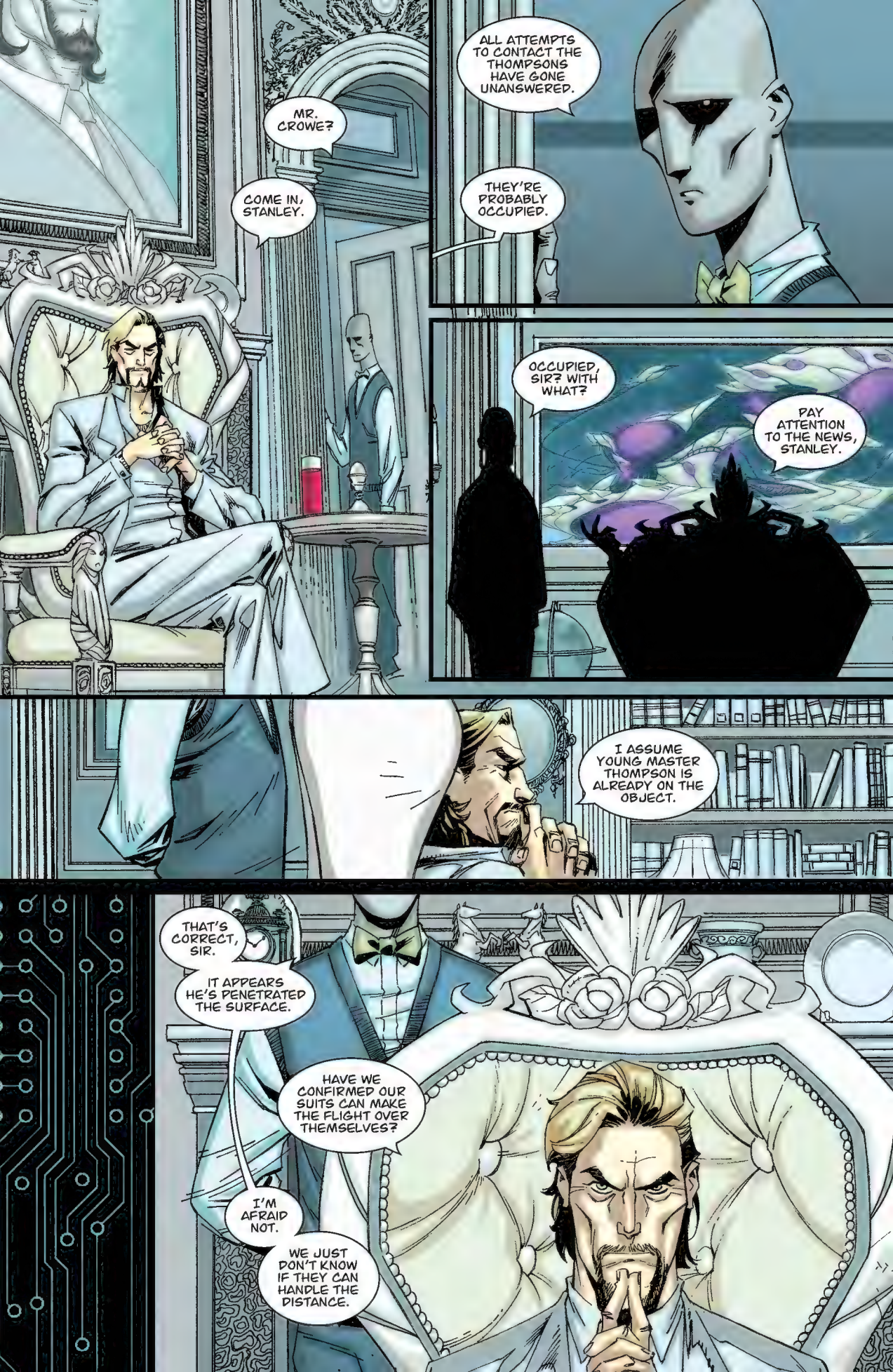
STRUCTURAL DAMAGE SUSTAINED. USER ADVISED TO DECREASE SURROUNDING PRESSURE.
THANKS FOR THE ADVICE, SUIT.
SERIOUSLY.
I APPRECIATE IT.
YOU DON'T HAPPEN TO HAVE ANY PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR BREAKING FREE, DO YOU?
I CAN'T GET ANYTHING TO WORK.
COMMUNICATION AND RECORDING SYSTEMS CURRENTLY ONLINE. ALL OTHER SYSTEMS ARE DOWN.
CAN YOU AT LEAST GIVE ME AN ANALYSIS OF THE SURROUNDING AREA?
SOMETHING'S PUSHING ME DOWN AND IT FEELS... FLESHY.
NEGATIVE.
WELL, THEN. THERE YOU GO.
GREAT.
I GUESS I JUST HAVE TO ENJOY THE--
WAIT A SEC.
I THINK WE'RE ABOUT FREED UP.


WHOA!
SPLASH!
WELL. OW.
THAT WAS UNPLEASANT.
I THINK I SPRAINED SOMETHING.
HUH. GROUND HERE FEELS FLESHY, TOO. STICKY EVEN.
APPARENTLY ACIDIC.
SZZZZZZ.
ALMOST LIKE...
AW, MAN, NO...

AM I BEING DIGESTED?!
THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT?
I JUST GOT EATEN.
DEATH BY SNACKING!
TOTALLY LAME!
OF ALL THE DUMB WAYS TO KICK THE BUCKET, I GET --
UM...
...WOW.

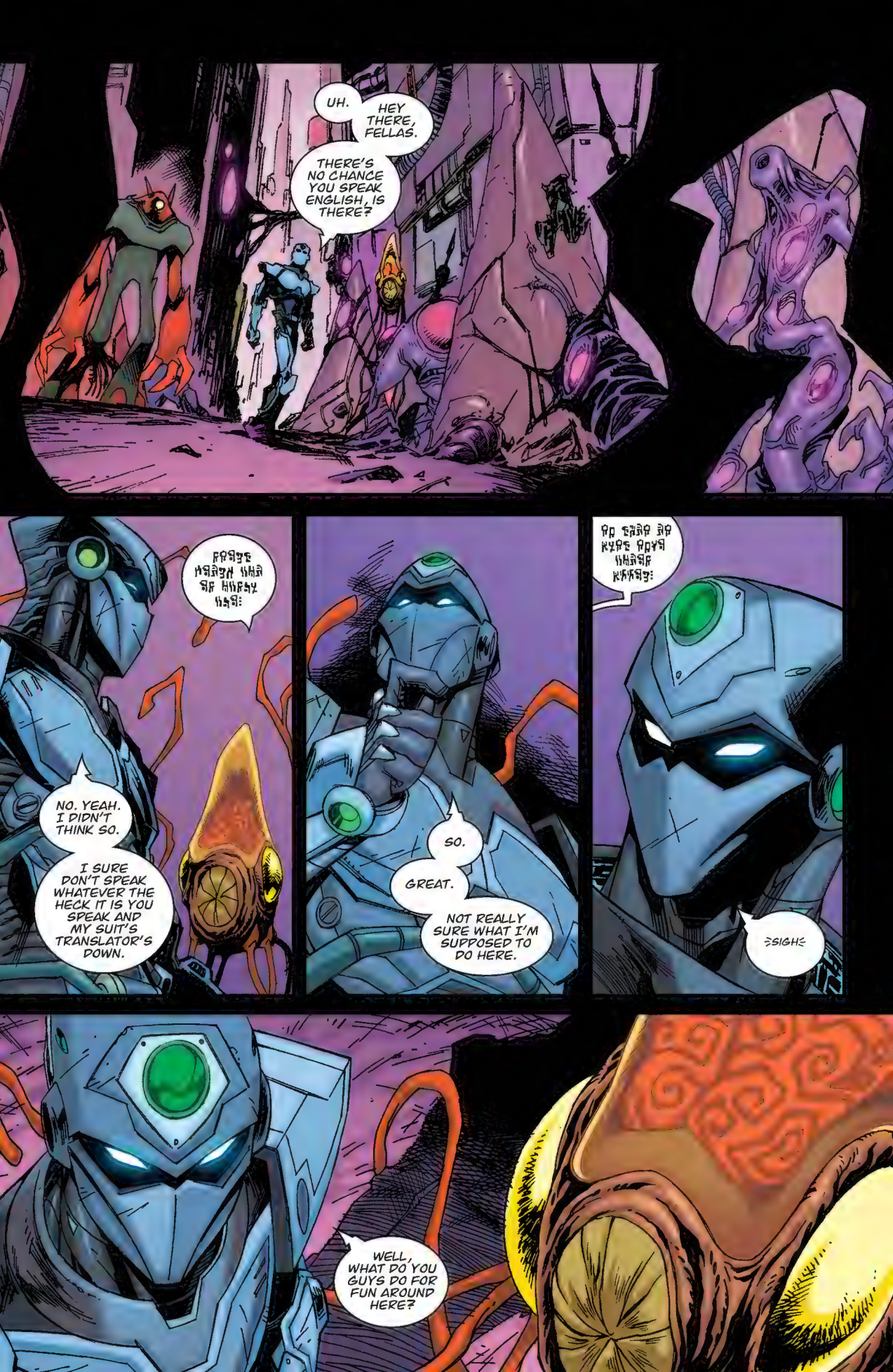
THERE'S A CITY IN HERE?!

I GUESS THIS MAKES SENSE.
WHATEVER I'M IN IS PRETTY FREAKING HUGE.
BUT STILL... I DON'T KNOW, MAN.
=SIGH=
MIGHT AS WELL SAY HELLO TO THE NATIVES.


MR. CROWE?
COME IN, STANLEY.
ALL ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT THE THOMPSONS HAVE GONE UNANSWERED.
THEY'RE PROBABLY OCCUPIED.
OCCUPIED, SIR? WITH WHAT?
PAY ATTENTION TO THE NEWS, STANLEY.
I ASSUME YOUNG MASTER THOMPSON IS ALREADY ON THE OBJECT.
THAT'S CORRECT, SIR.
IT APPEARS HE'S PENETRATED THE SURFACE.
HAVE WE CONFIRMED OUR SUITS CAN MAKE THE FLIGHT OVER THEMSELVES?
I'M AFRAID NOT.
WE JUST DON'T KNOW IF THEY CAN HANDLE THE DISTANCE.

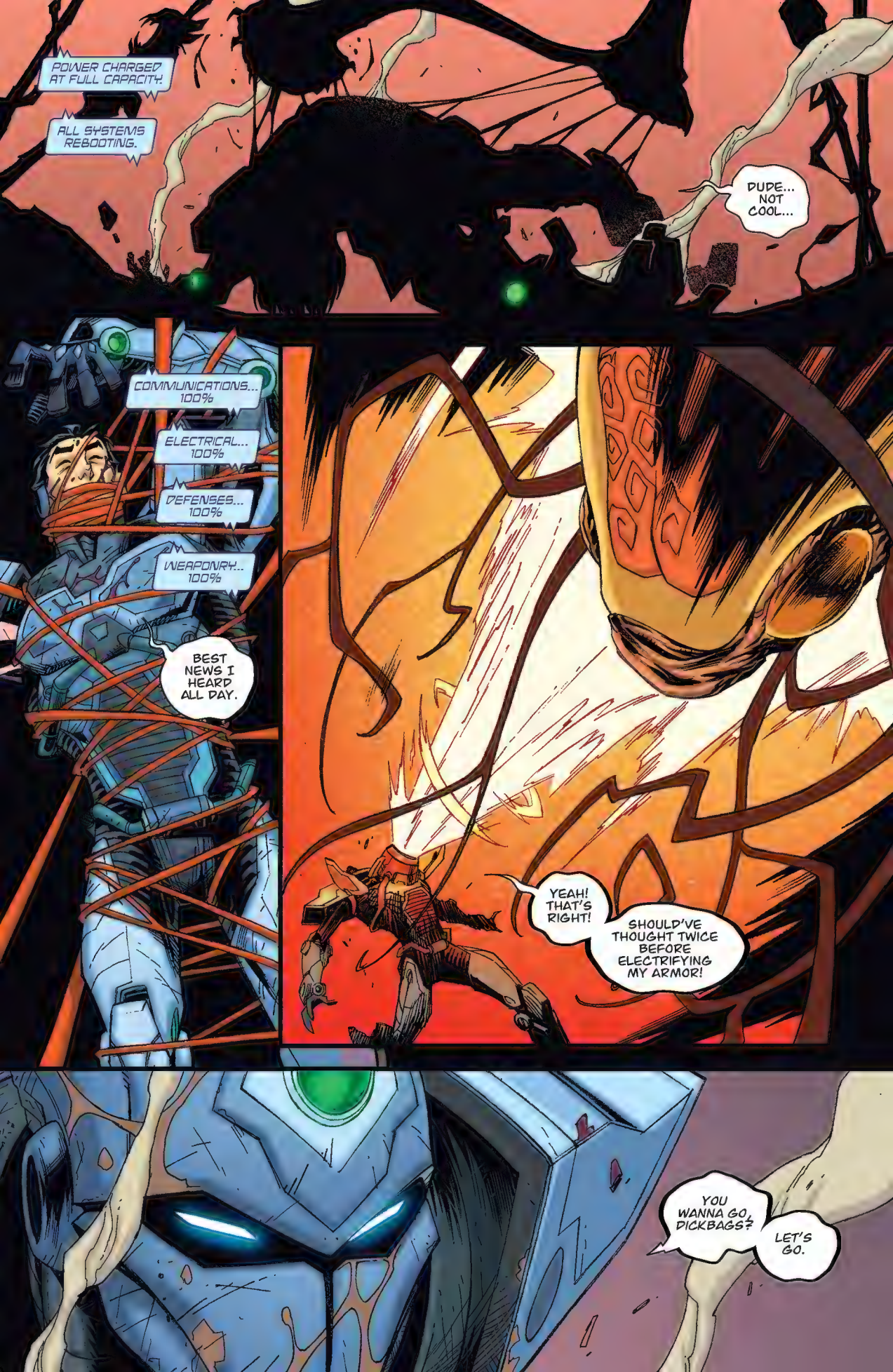
KRSSSHH!
GODDAMN IT!
THIS CHILD CAN MAKE IT OVER AND WE CAN'T?!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY BILLIONS OF DOLLARS I'VE PUT INTO OUR SPACE PROGRAM?!
OF COURSE, SIR. THREE POINT FIVE BILL--
I WAS BEING RHETORICAL!
KEEP CONTACTING HIM -- OR AT LEAST HIS FAMILY.
WE NEED TO MAKE THEM AN OFFER.
WE NEED THEIR SON.
WE NEED HIS SUIT.
OFFER THEM WHATEVER THEY NEED.
AND IF THEY REFUSE... DO WHAT YOU MUST.
WE WON'T ACCEPT "NO" FOR AN ANSWER.

HELLO?!
IS ANYONE HERE?!
WELL, THERE DEFINITELY WAS SOMEBODY AT SOME POINT.
GROSS.
HEY, SUIT -- YOU DON'T HAPPEN TO DETECT ANYONE DO YOU?
ALL SYSTEMS DOWN. CANNOT COMPLETE AREA ANALYSIS.
SO... WAIT. ALL SYSTEMS ARE DOWN? SO NO OXYGEN?
HOW AM I BREATHING?!
WELL, WHATEVER.
NO WAY I CAN FIGURE THAT OUT NOW.

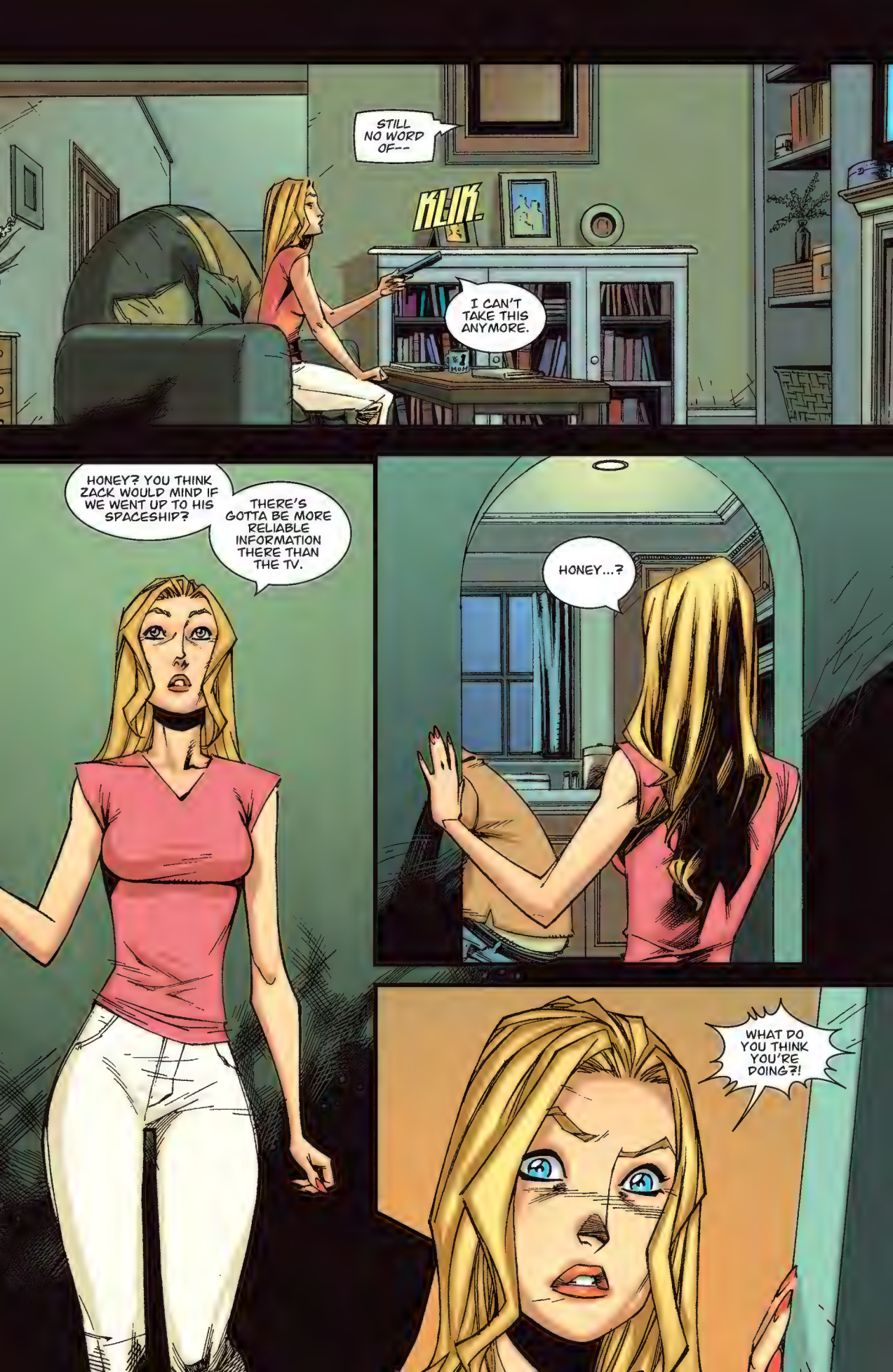

UH.
HEY THERE, FELLAS.
THERE'S NO CHANCE YOU SPEAK ENGLISH, IS THERE?
NO. YEAH. I DIDN'T THINK SO.
I SURE DON'T SPEAK WHATEVER THE HECK IT IS YOU SPEAK AND MY SUIT'S TRANSLATOR'S DOWN.
SO.
GREAT.
NOT REALLY SURE WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO HERE.
SIGH
WELL, WHAT DO YOU GUYS DO FOR FUN AROUND HERE?

HEY, COME ON!
THAT'S JUST UNNECESSARY!
SERIOUSLY!
QUIT BEING SUCH A TURD!
DAMN IT!
WHAT THE HECK IS WRONG WITH YOU?!
THIS SUIT HAS BLADES, YOU KNOW! AND LASERS!
KEEP THIS UP AND I MIGHT POSSIBLY SOMEHOW GET THEM TO WORK!

HOLY CRAP!
MRRRPH!
SRRRRRIZZZRATTT!!!


POWER CHARGED AT FULL CAPACITY.
ALL SYSTEMS REBOOTING.
DUDE... NOT COOL...
COMMUNICATIONS... 100%
ELECTRICAL... 100%
DEFENSES... 100%
WEAPONRY... 100%
BEST NEWS I HEARD ALL DAY.
YEAH! THAT'S RIGHT!
SHOULD'VE THOUGHT TWICE BEFORE ELECTRIFYING MY ARMOR!
YOU WANNA GO, DICKBAGS?
LET'S GO.

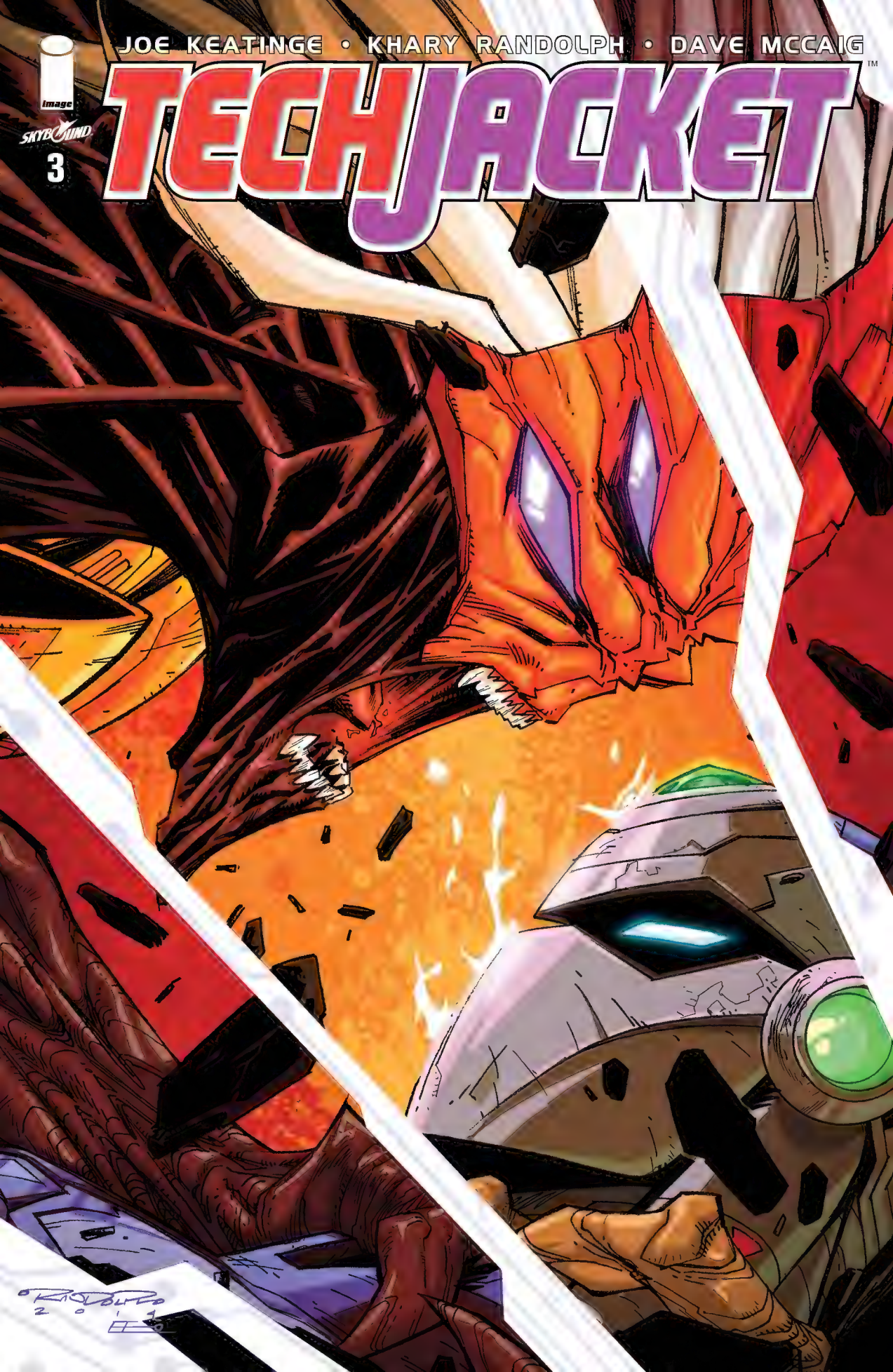
UNH!
KRAKK!


STILL NO WORD OF--
KLIK.
I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE.
HONEY? YOU THINK ZACK WOULD MIND IF WE WENT UP TO HIS SPACESHIP?
THERE'S GOTTA BE MORE RELIABLE INFORMATION THERE THAN THE TV.
HONEY...?
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

...JURSH EURTING SURM BIRFDAY CAKE.
THAT'S FOR ZACK'S PARTY!
YEAH, BUT WHO KNOWS IF WE'LL HAVE THE PARTY NOW?!
EVEN IF WE DO, THE CAKE WILL GO BAD BY THE TIME HE GETS BACK!
WE'LL NEED A NEW CAKE!
HE'S ALL THE WAY NEAR MERCURY!
OUR SON'S LIFE IS IN DANGER AND ALL YOU CAN DO IS SHOVE YOUR GULLET FULL OF HIS CAKE?!
I CAN'T SAY I'M ALL THAT THRILLED WITH YOU.
WHAT ELSE AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
THIS IS ALL I HAVE!
I'M USELESS...
COMPLETELY, UTTERLY USELESS...

I THOUGHT I ASKED YOU BE A LITTLE LESS... VIOLENT WITH HIM.
TELL ME HE'S STILL ALIVE.
OOF...
SEEMS ALIVE ENOUGH.
CAN YOU HEAR ME? CAN YOU UNDERSTAND ME? I'D HOPED THAT SHOCK GOT YOUR TRANSLATOR WORKING.
UM... YEAH...
I HEAR YOU.
WONDERFUL.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALIVE. WE DON'T GET A LOT OF VISITORS DOWN HERE.
NOT LIVING ONES ANYWAY.
Y... YOU'RE WEARING...
OH, THIS?

I HAD A FEELING YOU WOULD RECOGNIZE GELDARIAN ARMOR.
I HOPE YOU'RE IMPRESSED.
IT WASN'T EASY TO GET.
THE GELDARIANS DESCENDED UPON MY CITY WITH FORCE.
BUT IT DIDN'T MATTER.
I KILLED THEM ALL.


JOE KEATINGE • KHARY RANDOLPH • DAVE MCCAIG
image
SKYBOUND
3
TECHJACKET
™

TECH JACKET™

JOE KEATINGE
writer

KHARY RANDOLPH
artist

DAVE MCCAIG
colorist

RUS WOOTON
letterer

KHARY RANDOLPH
EMILIO LOPEZ
Cover

HELEN LEIGH
assistant editor

SEAN MACKIEWICZ
editor

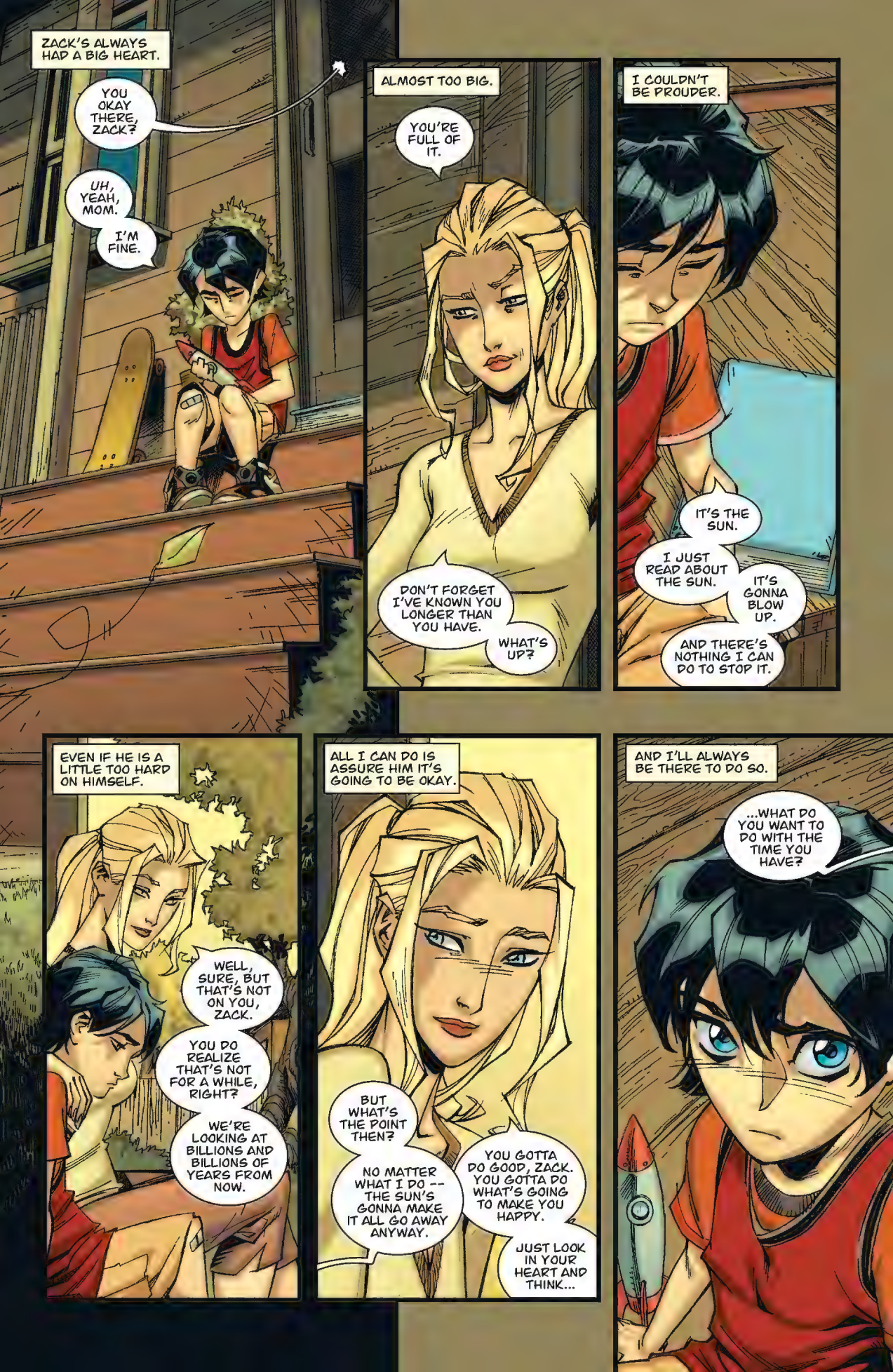
Created by
ROBERT KIRKMAN & E.J. SU

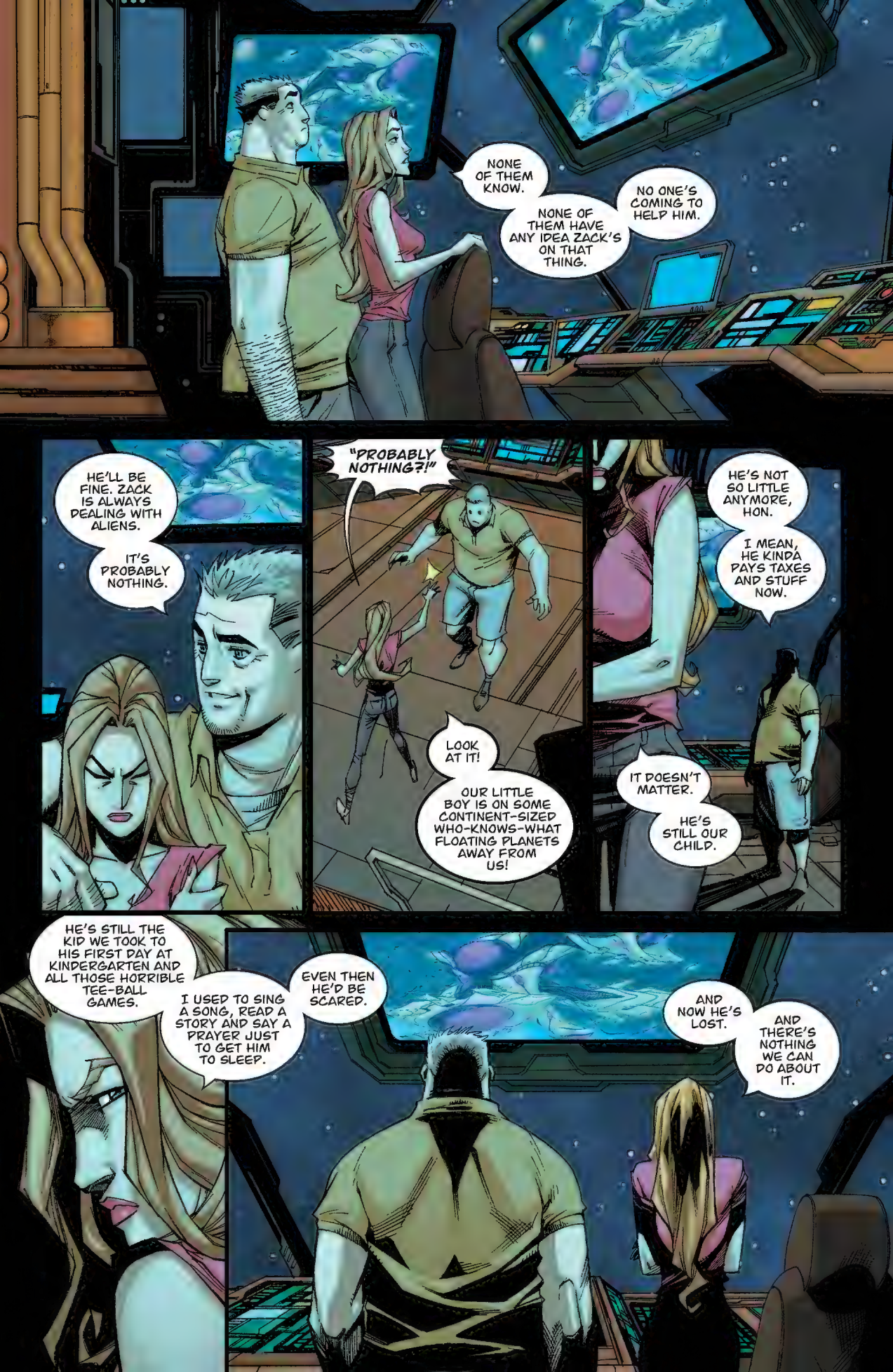
IMAGE COMICS, INC.
Robert Kirkman – Chief Operating Officer
Erik Larsen – Chief Financial Officer
Todd McFarlane – President
Marc Silvestri – Chief Executive Officer
Jim Valentino – Vice-President
Eric Stephenson – Publisher
Ron Richards – Director of Business Development
Jennifer de Guzman – Director of Trade Book Sales
Kat Salazar – Director of PR & Marketing
Jeremy Sullivan – Director of Digital Sales
Emilio Bautista – Sales Assistant
Branwyn Bigglestone – Senior Accounts Manager
Emily Miller – Accounts Manager
Jessica Ambriz – Administrative Assistant
Tyler Shainline – Events Coordinator
David Brothers – Content Manager
Jonathan Chan – Production Manager
Drew Gill – Art Director
Meredith Wallace – Print Manager
Monica Garcia – Senior Production Artist
Jenna Savage – Production Artist
Addison Duke – Production Artist
Tricia Ramos – Production Assistant
IMAGECOMICS.COM

SKYBOUND
For SKYBOUND ENTERTAINMENT
Robert Kirkman CEO
Sean Mackiewicz - Editorial Director
Shawn Kirkham - Director of Business Development
Brian Huntington - Online Editorial Director
June Allan - Publicity Director
Rachel Skidmore - Director of Media Development
Helen Leigh - Assistant Editor
Sarah Effinger - Office Manager
Lizzy Iverson - Administrative Assistant
Dan Petersen - Operations Manager
Nick Palmer - Operations Coordinator
International inquiries: foreign@skybound.com
Licensing inquiries: contact@skybound.com
WWW.SKYBOUND.COM

TECH JACKET #3. September 2014. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2001 Center Street, Sixth Floor, Berkeley, California 94704.

Copyright © 2014 Robert Kirkman, LLC and E.J. Su. All rights reserved. TECH JACKET™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® is a trademark of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. DIGITAL EDITION.


ZACK'S ALWAYS HAD A BIG HEART.
YOU OKAY THERE, ZACK?
UH, YEAH, MOM.
I'M FINE.
ALMOST TOO BIG.
YOU'RE FULL OF IT.
DON'T FORGET I'VE KNOWN YOU LONGER THAN YOU HAVE.
WHAT'S UP?
I COULDN'T BE PROUDER.
IT'S THE SUN.
I JUST READ ABOUT THE SUN.
IT'S GONNA BLOW UP.
AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO STOP IT.
EVEN IF HE IS A LITTLE TOO HARD ON HIMSELF.
WELL, SURE, BUT THAT'S NOT ON YOU, ZACK.
YOU DO REALIZE THAT'S NOT FOR A WHILE, RIGHT?
WE'RE LOOKING AT BILLIONS AND BILLIONS OF YEARS FROM NOW.
ALL I CAN DO IS ASSURE HIM IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY.
BUT WHAT'S THE POINT THEN?
NO MATTER WHAT I DO -- THE SUN'S GONNA MAKE IT ALL GO AWAY ANYWAY.
YOU GOTTA DO GOOD, ZACK. YOU GOTTA DO WHAT'S GOING TO MAKE YOU HAPPY.
JUST LOOK IN YOUR HEART AND THINK...
AND I'LL ALWAYS BE THERE TO DO SO.
...WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO WITH THE TIME YOU HAVE?


NONE OF THEM KNOW.
NONE OF THEM HAVE ANY IDEA ZACK'S ON THAT THING.
NO ONE'S COMING TO HELP HIM.
HE'LL BE FINE. ZACK IS ALWAYS DEALING WITH ALIENS.
IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING.
"PROBABLY NOTHING?!"
LOOK AT IT!
OUR LITTLE BOY IS ON SOME CONTINENT-SIZED WHO-KNOWS-WHAT FLOATING PLANETS AWAY FROM US!
HE'S NOT SO LITTLE ANYMORE, HON.
I MEAN, HE KINDA PAYS TAXES AND STUFF NOW.
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
HE'S STILL OUR CHILD.
HE'S STILL THE KID WE TOOK TO HIS FIRST DAY AT KINDERGARTEN AND ALL THOSE HORRIBLE TEE-BALL GAMES.
I USED TO SING A SONG, READ A STORY AND SAY A PRAYER JUST TO GET HIM TO SLEEP.
EVEN THEN HE'D BE SCARED.
AND NOW HE'S LOST.
AND THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT.

COME ON.
BE SERIOUS.
HOW DID YOU REALLY GET THE GELDARIAN ARMOR?
...EXCUSE ME?
LOOK AT ME. I KNOW GELDARIANS.
I'M PRETTY INTIMATE WITH HOW THEIR ARMOR WORKS. I CAN ALSO SPOT AN OLDER MODEL WHEN I SEE ONE.
YOU'RE WIELDING OBSOLETE TECH, DUDE. IT PROBABLY DRIFTED OUT WHEN ONE OF THEIR SHIPS DISPOSED ITS GARBAGE.
YOU DIDN'T KILL ANYBODY FOR YOURS.
I DIDN'T, DID I?
LET'S TEST YOUR THEORY.
WRAAM!

YOU'RE LYING.
MAYBE NERVOUS? I'M DETECTING A LITTLE NERVOUSNESS.
NO. YOU DON'T.
UMMM -- YEAH, I DO.
I ASSURE YOU --
ALL YOU DETECT IS BLOODLUST.
UNF!
YOU TOLD ME TO LOOK AT YOU.
DO THE SAME.
WRAKOOM!

YOU'RE FRAIL. BROKEN. ON THE VERGE OF DEATH IN AN UNKNOWN PLACE.
WHAT COULD POSSIBLY MAKE ME NERVOUS?
THROOM!
WHAT ADVANTAGE COULD YOU POSSIBLY HAVE?
GIVE ME ANY PLAUSIBLE REASON I WOULD SHUDDER AT YOUR PATHETIC EXISTENCE!
...STATUS... UPDATE...
I DON'T FOLLOW.
ALL SYSTEMS ONLINE.
ELECTRICAL... 25%
COMMUNICATIONS... 25%
DEFENSES... 25%
WEAPONRY... 25%
P... PERFECT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

REROUTING EVERYTHING TO WEAPONRY.
I KNOW YOU KNOW WHAT I KNOW.
YOU KNOW I KNOW HOW TO USE THIS SUIT.
IT'S NOT JUST SOMETHING I FOUND LYING AROUND IN A GIANT... WHATEVER WE'RE IN.
IT'S ME.

HHK!
SKAFF!
HE
DAMN IT! I'M BLEEDING!
SHUT UP ALREADY.
ZZRAAATT!
SUIT, REROUTE 45% OF POWER BACK TO DEFENSES.
MAYBE ANOTHER 5% TO COMMUNICATIONS SO WE CAN CHAT SOME MORE.
AS FOR YOU, UM -- UGLY DUDE, REROUTE YOUR FACE RIGHT HERE.

FRAAAATTHRAAT!
WELL, I'LL ADMIT THIS WAS UNEXPECTED.
YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHAT I AM?
I'LL SHOW YOU EXACTLY WHAT I AM.
FREEFTTTT!!
PRETTY LAME MOVE ON YOUR BUDDY, MAN.
SKRREEEET!
HE'S A RESOURCE TO BE EXPLOITED.
AT BEST, A WEAPON TO WIELD!

EVERYTHING IS.
NOW YOU'RE JUST BEING EGOTISTICAL.
TRANKKOTHRAM!
THRAM!
I'LL GIVE YOU THIS: YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT KNOCKING A GUY DOWN.
BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER. YOU DID WHAT I WANTED.
YOU CONFIRMED JUST WHAT YOU ARE.
AND JUST HOW I'LL END YOU.

WE'RE OUT OF OPTIONS.
ALL DUE RESPECT, MR. PRESIDENT -- OPTIONS FOR WHAT, SIR?
THE OBJECT ISN'T ANYWHERE NEAR EARTH'S ORBIT. IT SHOWS NO EVIDENCE OF MOVEMENT.
AT THIS POINT IT SEEMS LIKE OUR BEST BET IS TO SIT AND WAIT IT OUT.
WHAT A GODDAMN FINE PLAN, PROFESSOR BOETTICHER!
WE CERTAINLY DON'T HAVE A GODDAMN HISTORY OF RELENTLESS GODDAMN RAMPANT ATTACKS OF GODDAMN EXTRATERRESTRIAL ORIGIN.
LET'S JUST KICK BACK, DRINK A GODDAMN COLD ONE AND INVITE THE GODDAMN SHIP TO COME OVER WHENEVER IT'S READY TO ERADICATE GODDAMN HUMANITY!
UM, WELL.
WE'RE NOT EVEN POSITIVE IT IS A SHIP.
OUR FEEDS SHOW US THE OBJECT'S --
IT DOESN'T GODDAMN MATTER WHAT IT GODDAMN IS OR ISN'T!

MR. PRESIDENT -- THERE'S A FOREIGN CRAFT OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN WITHIN OUR GALAXY.
GIVEN OUR EXPERIENCE COMBATING SIMILAR FORCES, I SUGGEST WE --
SUGGEST WE WHAT, GENERAL SCHRADER?
PROFESSOR BOETTICHER'S HERE TO CONFIRM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DOESN'T HAVE THE NECESSARY RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE THE TRIP OVER TO THE OBJECT WITHIN A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF TIME.
NASA'S AT A LOSS.
YOU'RE HERE FOR ME TO TELL YOU TO ASSEMBLE OUR ARMY FOR DEFENSE. AT THIS POINT, WE'RE UNABLE TO MAN THE PROPER OFFENSE.
MR. PRESIDENT, IF WE'RE NOT MOUNTING AN OFFENSIVE STRATEGY, WHAT IS THE PLAN FOR ASSURING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THEY'RE PROTECTED?
DESPITE ITS POSSIBLY UNPOPULAR RECEPTION, I'M TURNING TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR.
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA MAY NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY RESOURCES, BUT LUCKILY ITS CITIZENSHIP DOES.
I'VE BROUGHT IN A CONSULTANT.
MR. PRESIDENT, YOUR TWO O'CLOCK APPOINTMENT HAS ARRIVED.
RIGHT ON TIME.
SEND HIM IN.

GOOD AFTERNOON, MR. PRESIDENT.
IT'S AN HONOR TO FINALLY MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.
MY NAME IS STANLEY, REPRESENTATIVE OF NICHOLAS CROWE.
WE'RE BRINGING IN A GODDAMN ROBOT?
I'M AS SURPRISED AS YOU ARE, COLONEL.
I WAS EXPECTING MR. CROWE.
I UNDERSTAND THAT, MR. PRESIDENT.
MR. CROWE GIVES HIS APOLOGIES.
UNFORTUNATELY, THERE WAS A PRESSING MEETING REGARDING THE OBJECT HE COULDN'T AFFORD TO CANCEL.
WHAT THE HELL IS POSSIBLY MORE IMPORTANT THAN CONSULTING US ON WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO ABOUT THE GODDAMN OBJECT?
OH, COLONEL, I ASSURE YOU MR. CROWE IS DOING JUST THAT.
HE'S ASSEMBLING THE CORPS.
WHAT GODDAMN CORPS?
THE ONE SAVING THE EARTH, SIR.
THE TECH JACKET CORPS.

THIS LAST LITTLE OUTBURST MADE IT OBVIOUS.
THROK!
YOU'RE JUST A PART OF THIS LARGER THING. A LAPSE IN ITS IMMUNE SYSTEM.
YOU'RE A DISEASE MUCKING UP THE WORKS.
YOU'RE CANCER.

LUCKILY FOR ME, I PACK A PRETTY DECENT SET OF SURGICAL TOOLS.
SZZT!
SLSSH!
SERIOUSLY, MAN, NEXT TIME --
OWN UP TO WHAT YOU ARE.
RSSH!
SUIT, AM I ANYWHERE NEAR THE SOURCE OF THE CANCER?
AFFIRMATIVE, ZACK.
YOU'RE RIGHT THERE.
THROK!
BAD ASS.
SQUIT.

YOU MUST BE THE CREAMY CANDY CENTER.
I AM AKILEOS.
I AM MORE THAN A "DISEASE."
I CREATED AN ARMY FROM --
THRAMMM!
AW, SHUT IT.
AND STOP INFECTING THINGS!
YOU'RE WELCOME, BY THE WAY.
WHATEVER THE HELL YOU ARE.

BRAKKA THROOM!
AW, MAN!
NOW WHAT?!
THOOP!
DUDE, COME ON! I JUST CURED YOUR CANCER!

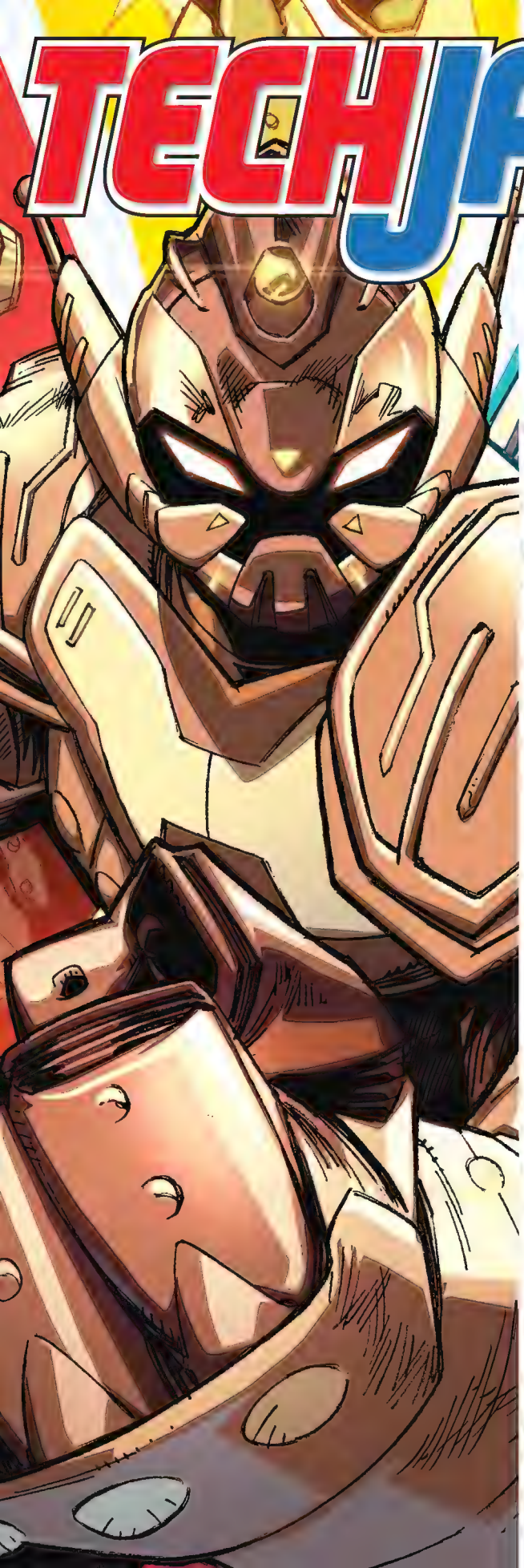
WHHHHHRRRRR.
Y'KNOW, THIS IS ACTUALLY KINDA PLEASANT.
SYSTEM RESTORE INITIATING.
ELECTRICAL... 1,000%
COMMUNICATIONS... 1,000%
DEFENSES... 1,000%
WEAPONRY... 1,000%
NOW YOU'RE A WEIRD ALIEN TENDRIL I CAN GET BEHIND.
REFORMATTING DRIVE.
UM. WHAT NOW?
INSTALLING NEW OPERATING SYSTEM.
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA.
LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS FIRST!
SUIT REBOOT BEGINS IN THREE, TWO...
SLOW DOWN! ABORT!
JUST STOP!

ONE.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING TO ME?!

LET'S GO HOME.
I CAN'T WATCH ANY OF THIS ANYMORE.
WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET THE ANSWERS WE WANT.
ARE YOU SURE? I DON'T MIND.
I DO.
THIS WHOLE SITUATION IS --
DOES THE TELEPORTER ALWAYS ACTIVATE ON ITS OWN?
UH. NO.
...ZACK?

I'M AFRAID NOT.
MY NAME IS NICHOLAS CROWE.
I'M HERE TO SAVE YOUR SON.

JOE KEATINGE • KHARY RANDOLPH • EMILIO LOPEZ
TECHJACKET
4



TECH JACKET™

JOE KEATINGE
writer

KHARY RANDOLPH
artist

EMILIO LOPEZ
colorist

RUS WOOTON
letterer

KHARY RANDOLPH
EMILIO LOPEZ
Cover

HELEN LEIGH
assistant editor

SEAN MACKIEWICZ
editor

Created by
ROBERT KIRKMAN & E.J. SU

IMAGE COMICS, INC.
Robert Kirkman – Chief Operating Officer
Erik Larsen – Chief Financial Officer
Todd McFarlane – President
Marc Silvestri – Chief Executive Officer
Jim Valentino – Vice-President
Eric Stephenson – Publisher
Ron Richards – Director of Business Development
Jennifer de Guzman – Director of Trade Book Sales
Kat Salazar – Director of PR & Marketing
Corey Murphy – Director of Retail Sales
Jeremy Sullivan – Director of Digital Sales
Emilio Bautista – Sales Assistant
Branwyn Bigglestone – Senior Accounts Manager
Emily Miller – Accounts Manager
Jessica Ambriz – Administrative Assistant
Tyler Shainline – Events Coordinator
David Brothers – Content Manager
Jonathan Chan – Production Manager
Drew Gill – Art Director
Meredith Wallace – Print Manager
Monica Garcia – Senior Production Artist
Jenna Savage – Production Artist
Addison Duke – Production Artist
Tricia Ramos – Production Assistant
IMAGECOMICS.COM

SKYBOUND
For SKYBOUND ENTERTAINMENT
Robert Kirkman - CEO
Sean Mackiewicz - Editorial Director
Shawn Kirkham - Director of Business Development
Brian Huntington - Online Editorial Director
June Alan - Publicity Director
Rachel Skidmore - Director of Media Development
Helen Leigh - Assistant Editor
Sarah Effinger - Office Manager
Lizzy Iverson - Administrative Assistant
Stephan Nuñilo - Administrative Assistant
Dan Petersen - Operations Manager
Nick Palmer - Operations Coordinator
International inquiries: foreign@skybound.com
Licensing inquiries: contact@skybound.com
WWW.SKYBOUND.COM

TECH JACKET #4. October 2014. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2001 Center Street, Sixth Floor, Berkeley, California 94704.

Copyright © 2014 Robert Kirkman, LLC and E.J. Su. All rights reserved. TECH JACKET™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® is a trademark of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. DIGITAL EDITION.

DO YOU THINK WE'RE ALONE, DAD?
THERE WAS A TIME BEFORE THE TECH JACKETS.
BACK WHEN GELOARIA WAS YOUNG.
KLANG.
...DAD?
OF COURSE NOT.
THEY KNOW WE'RE HERE.
NOW LET ME WORK.
BACK WHEN WAR WAS NEW.
B-BUT--
QUIET YOUR TONGUE.
I MUST CONCENTRATE.
THIS IS OUR FINAL CHANCE AT SALVATION.
OUR FINAL SOLUTION.
THAT WAS THEN.

THE TIDE OF WAR SHIFTED IN THE GELDARIANS' FAVOR, WITH OLD FAITHS SHATTERED BY TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION.
THERE CAME A TIME WHEN ALL GODS DIED!
WHEN GELDARIA MADE DESTINY ITS OWN!
GELDARIANS WILL NO LONGER RELY ON BLIND FAITH -- ON THE HOPE A CREATOR FROM BEYOND KNOWN EXISTENCE WILL SOMEDAY LIBERATE US FROM OUR OPPRESSORS!
I PRESENT TO YOU OUR NEW WAY -- OUR NEW DESTINY!
WITNESS OUR NEW ARMY -- OUR GREATEST HOPE!
THE DAWN OF THE TECHJACKET!
IF ONLY THEY STOPPED THERE. WE WOULD NEVER HAVE MET.
YOUR LIFE WOULD BE MUCH DIFFERENT.

I HAVE NEVER KNOWN OF A SPECIES ABLE TO RESIST THE LUST OF WAR.
THE DESIRE TO DESTROY ONE'S OPPOSITION, REGARDLESS OF CONSEQUENCE.
REGARDLESS OF LOSS.
AN EYE FOR AN EYE REMAINS THE ONLY UNIVERSAL CONSTANT.
TO BE HARMED -- THEN DEVASTATE IN RETURN.
TO EVENTUALLY BUILD A WEAPON TO END ALL WEAPONS.
ONLY TO FOLLOW IT UP WITH MORE.
THE TECH JACKETS WERE TO BE SUCH AN ENDGAME.
BUT OF COURSE, THERE WAS MORE.

THERE WAS ME.
POWER CHARGED BEYOND KNOWN MAXIMUM CAPACITY!
ELECTRICAL... ∞%
COMMUNICATIONS... ∞%
DEFENSES... ∞%
WEAPONRY... ∞%
FSSSH.
WHAT IS -- I DON'T EVEN -- !!
YOU ARE EXPERIENCING EVOLUTION.

I AM PREPARING YOU FOR THE WORLD TO COME.
I AM PREPARING YOU FOR WHAT WILL FOLLOW.
THE AKILEOS WAS MERELY A FOOT SOLDIER.
ONE OF LEGION BEYOND YOUR CURRENT COMPREHENSION.
I HAVE DONE WHAT I COULD WITH HIS KIND.
UNH!!
I'VE BEEN BUILDING AN ARMY.
ONE TO TRULY END ALL WARS. TO QUIET THE UNIVERSE AT LONG LAST.
WHO... ARE YOU...?
ONCE, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN BROTHERS.
NOW?

NOW, I AM
YOUR GOD.

WAIT A SECOND --
WHAT?!
HA! THAT'S A VERY APPROPRIATE REACTION, MR. THOMPSON.
I CAN'T IMAGINE THIS OFFER SEEMS ANYTHING BUT ODD.
HOWEVER, ALLOW ME TO REASSURE YOU I AM QUITE SERIOUS.
I DON'T BELIEVE WE WERE EVER ASSURED TO BE REASSURED, MR. CROWE.
UNDERSTANDABLE, BUT PLEASE, CALL ME NICHOLAS.
NICHOLAS, OKAY.
WELL, NICHOLAS, WHAT YOU'RE OFFERING IS REALLY GENEROUS. AND SOMEWHAT OF A HUGE RELIEF.
AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, WE'RE REALLY WORRIED ABOUT ZACK. IF YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU SAY YOU CAN -- IF YOU CAN ACTUALLY SAVE HIM -- IT'S GOING TO MEAN THE WORLD TO US.
BUT, YEAH, DU -- UM, SIR, I DON'T THINK WE CAN OFFER WHAT YOU'RE ASKING FOR IN RETURN.

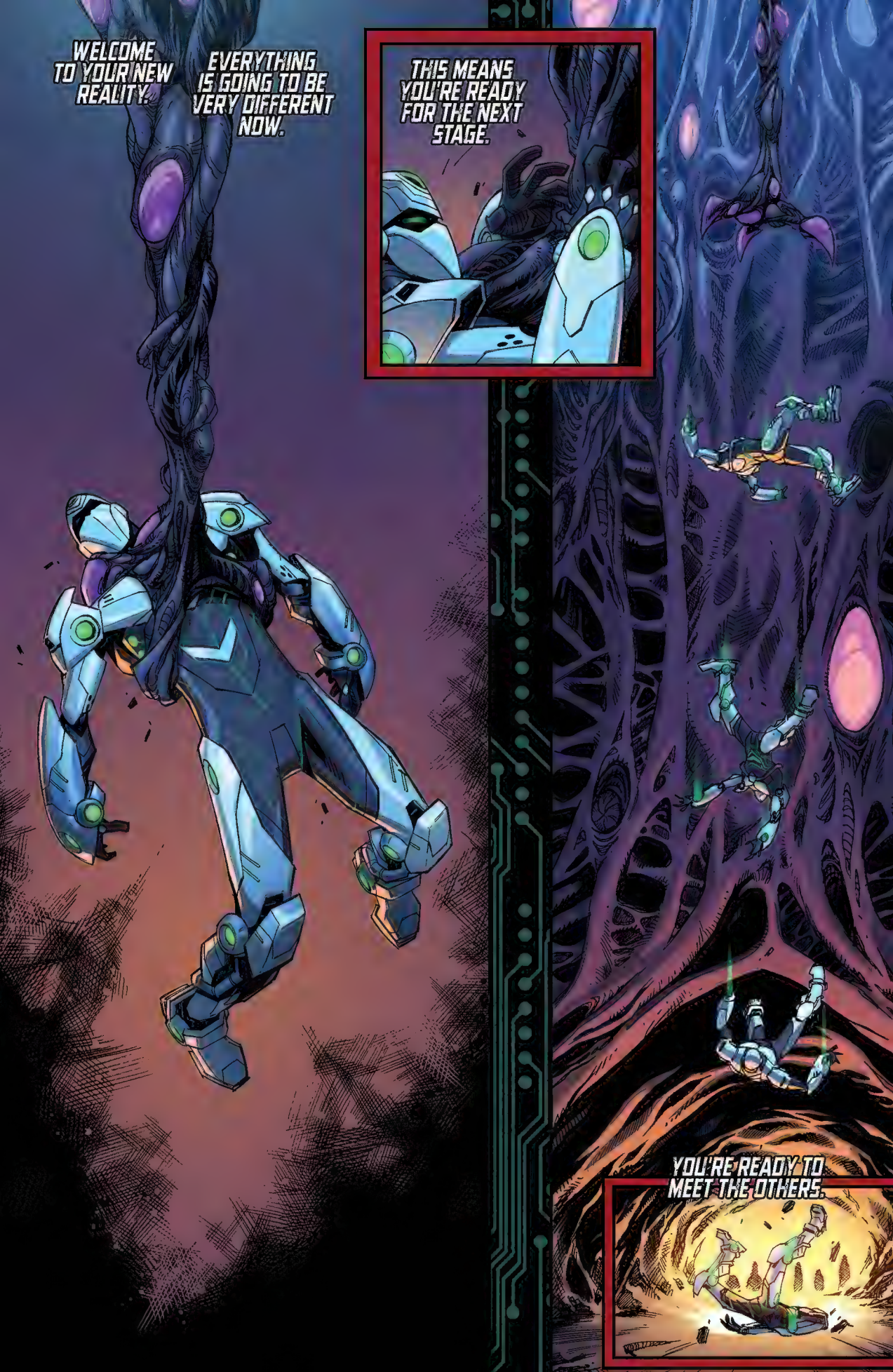
OH, BUT I BELIEVE YOU CAN.
YOU SEE, I'VE OBSERVED ZACHARY FOR A LONG TIME NOW.
AND I'VE BEEN MOST IMPRESSED.
FOR SOMEONE SO... PREVIOUSLY INEXPERIENCED, HE'S DONE A COMMENDABLE JOB OF UTILIZING THE TECH JACKET FOR HUMANKIND'S GREATER GOOD.
YET I THINK IT'S OBVIOUS THIS ISN'T THE LIFE YOU INTENDED FOR YOUR SON. NOR THE LIFE HE DREAMED OF.
I DUNNO, HE REALLY SEEMS TO LIKE FIGHTING EVIL SPACE BAD GUYS. IT'S KINDA HIS THING.
BESIDES, HE'S BONDED TO THE SUIT. LIKE, PERMANENTLY. TAKING HIM OUT WILL KILL 'IM.
DOES HE ENJOY FIGHTING THESE "EVIL SPACE BAD GUYS" OR IS IT HIS OBLIGATION?
WHAT I'M ULTIMATELY OFFERING IS ZACHARY'S FREEDOM.
I CAN RESTORE ZACHARY'S LIFE TO NORMALITY.
I CAN SAFELY REMOVE YOUR SON FROM THE TECH JACKET.

WAIT A SECOND --
WHAT?!
I'M NOT SURE WHICH PART YOU DO NOT FOLLOW.
I WAS PURPOSED INTO A WEAPON, MUCH LIKE YOU.
NOW, I AM MORE THAN OUR CREATORS COULD HAVE EVER FORESEEN.
OUR... CREATORS...?
YOU MEAN MY MOM AND DAD?!

AAAA

YOU ARE TO SHED ALL CONCEPTS OF SELF.
THERE IS NO EARTHMAN.
NO GELDARIAN.
NO TECH JACKET.

NO ZACHARY THOMPSON.
SNAP.

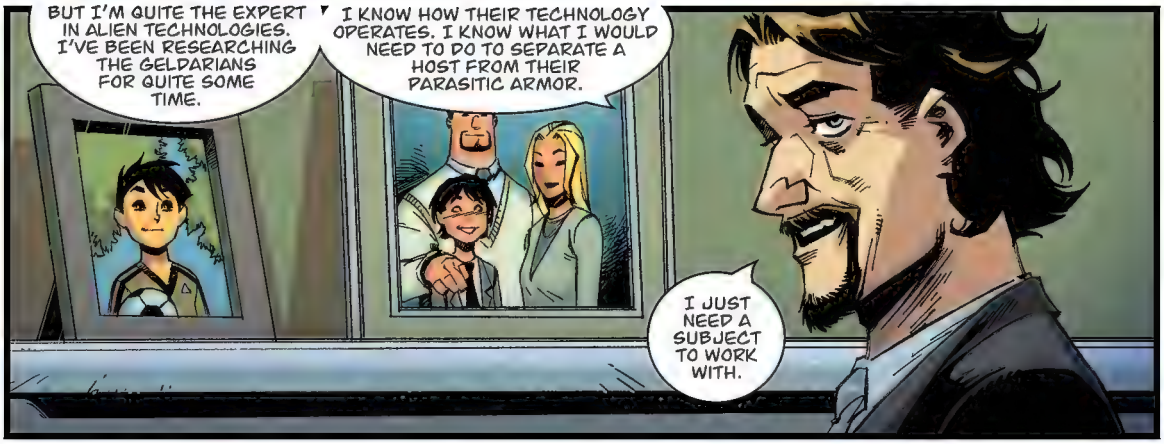

WELCOME TO YOUR NEW REALITY.
EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE VERY DIFFERENT NOW.
THIS MEANS YOU'RE READY FOR THE NEXT STAGE.
YOU'RE READY TO MEET THE OTHERS.

WHOA, DUDE...
YOU COULD SEPARATE ZACK...?
HE WOULDN'T DIE...?
...SERIOUSLY?
I WOULD NEVER --
BLEEP BLEEP.
DO EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT. MY ASSISTANT JUST LEFT AN IMPORTANT MEETING AND NEEDS TO BRIEF ME IMMEDIATELY.
DON'T CALL HIM "DUDE!"
FORCE OF HABIT! SORRY!
SLAP!

WELL?
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ADVANTAGEOUS TO HAVE YOU HERE, MR. CROWE.
THE OFFICIAL STANCE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS TO TAKE THE MATTER INTO THEIR OWN HANDS.
THEY'RE GOING TO APPROACH THE COLOSSAL ON THEIR OWN.
DAMN IT, STANLEY! I GAVE YOU ONE TASK!
I SINCERELY APOLOGIZE, SIR.
HOW LONG UNTIL THEY MAKE APPROACH?
I'M UNCLEAR HOW AND WHEN THEY'LL PROCEED, SIR. I ASSUME THEY'LL SEND THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE.
IT MIGHT BE WISE FOR US TO FOLLOW SUIT. SEND OUR OWN FORCE WITHOUT PERMISSION.

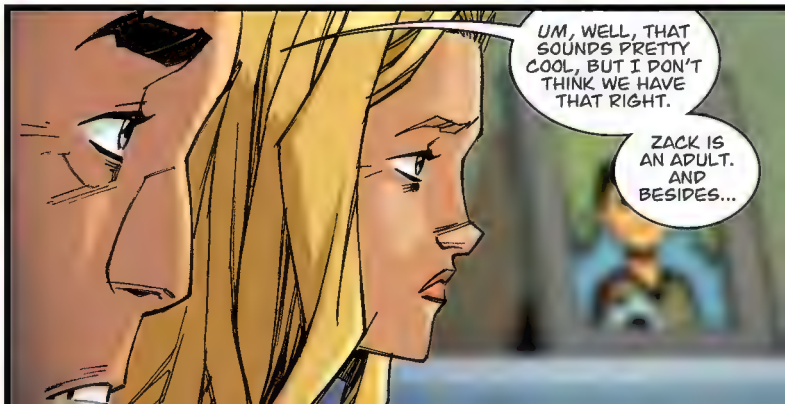
MAYBE IT'S TIME WE DEBUT THE TECH JACKET CORPS.
YOU DO REALIZE WE HAVE NOTHING UNLESS I GET CONTROL OF THAT IDIOT'S SUIT, DON'T YOU?
UNLESS I CONVINCE HIS PARENTS TO SIGN OVER THE RIGHTS TO THE SUIT, ITS NAME -- WE HAVE NOTHING.
OUR OWN SUITS COULDN'T SURVIVE THE TRIP!
UNLESS THEY BUCKLE, SIGN OVER THE RIGHTS IMMEDIATELY, IT MAY BE TIME TO GET... AGGRESSIVE.
WE'RE OUT OF TIME.

EXCUSE ME FOR NOT SOUNDING APPRECIATIVE OR CONVINCED, BUT YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN SEPARATE ZACK -- SAFELY?
NO NEED TO EXCUSE YOURSELF.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT WHAT I'M OFFERING.


BUT I'M QUITE THE EXPERT IN ALIEN TECHNOLOGIES. I'VE BEEN RESEARCHING THE GELDARIANS FOR QUITE SOME TIME.
I KNOW HOW THEIR TECHNOLOGY OPERATES. I KNOW WHAT I WOULD NEED TO DO TO SEPARATE A HOST FROM THEIR PARASITIC ARMOR.
I JUST NEED A SUBJECT TO WORK WITH.

ZACK WILL BE HELPING ME -- HELPING HUMANKIND.
IN RETURN, HE GETS A NORMAL LIFE.
WOULDN'T THAT BE A WELCOME CHANGE FOR YOU BOTH AS WELL? NO MORE ALIENS TO DEAL WITH?

ALL I NEED IS YOUR PERMISSION. YOUR SIGNATURE GRANTING ME THE LEGAL RIGHT TO THE TECH JACKET ARMOR. IN EXCHANGE, YOU AND ZACK WILL BE EXTREMELY WELL COMPENSATED.


UM, WELL, THAT SOUNDS PRETTY COOL, BUT I DON'T THINK WE HAVE THAT RIGHT.
ZACK IS AN ADULT. AND BESIDES...

KRAKKABRAKKADOOM!!!
HOLY CRAP!!!

HONEY?! ARE YOU OKAY?!
I'M FINE... JUST SHAKEN UP.
MR. CROWE?
I'M... OKAY.
DOES THIS HAPPEN OFTEN?
THIS IS A FIRST.
WAIT A SECOND! THAT'S TOTALLY GELDARIAN!
ZACK'S BACK!
SKSSSSHH.
=KAFF!=
BUDDY? IS THAT YOU?

EXCUSE ME, MR. AND MRS. THOMPSON...
...I-IS ZACK HOME...?

JOE KEATINGE • KHARY RANDOLPH • EMILIO LOPEZ
image
SKYBOUND
5
TECHJACKET™

TECH JACKET™

JOE KEATINGE
writer

KHARY RANDOLPH
artist

EMILIO LOPEZ
colorist

RUS WOOTON
letterer

KHARY RANDOLPH
EMILIO LOPEZ
Cover

HELEN LEIGH
assistant editor

SEAN MACKIEWICZ
editor

Created by
ROBERT KIRKMAN & E.J. SU

IMAGE COMICS, INC.
Robert Kirkman – Chief Operating Officer
Erik Larsen – Chief Financial Officer
Todd McFarlane – President
Marc Silvestri – Chief Executive Officer
Jim Valentino – Vice-President
Eric Stephenson – Publisher
Ron Richards – Director of Business Development
Jennifer de Guzman – Director of Trade Book Sales
Kat Salazar – Director of PR & Marketing
Corey Murphy – Director of Retail Sales
Jeremy Sullivan – Director of Digital Sales
Emilio Bautista – Sales Assistant
Branwyn Bigglestone – Senior Accounts Manager
Emily Miller – Accounts Manager
Jessica Ambriz – Administrative Assistant
Tyler Shainline – Events Coordinator
David Brothers – Content Manager
Jonathan Chan – Production Manager
Drew Gill – Art Director
Meredith Wallace – Print Manager
Monica Garcia – Senior Production Artist
Addison Duke – Production Artist
Tricia Ramos – Production Assistant
IMAGECOMICS.COM

SKYBOUND
For SKYBOUND ENTERTAINMENT
Robert Kirkman - CEO
Sean Mackiewicz - Editorial Director
Shawn Kirkham - Director of Business Development
Brian Huntington - Online Editorial Director
June Alan - Publicity Director
Rachel Skidmore - Director of Media Development
Helen Leigh - Assistant Editor
Dan Petersen - Operations Manager
Sarah Effinger - Office Manager
Nick Palmer - Operations Coordinator
Lizzy Iverson - Administrative Assistant
Stephan Murillo - Administrative Assistant
International inquiries: foreign@skybound.com
Licensing inquiries: contact@skybound.com
WWW.SKYBOUND.COM

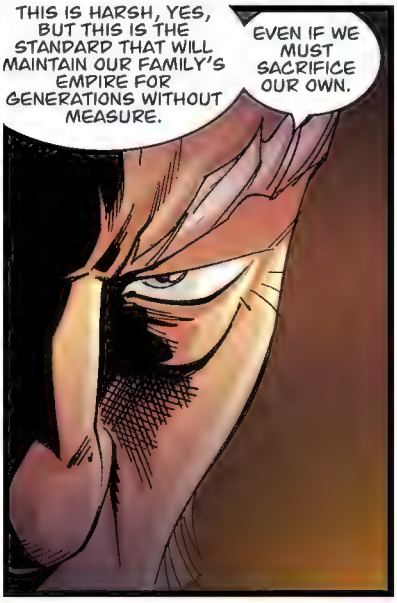
TECH JACKET #5. November 2014. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2001 Center Street, Sixth Floor, Berkeley, California 94704.

Copyright © 2014 Robert Kirkman, LLC and E.J. Su. All rights reserved. TECH JACKET™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® is a trademark of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. DIGITAL EDITION.

I ONLY HAVE ONE MEMORY OF MY FATHER.
YOU WILL GROW UP TO BE A GREAT MAN, NICHOLAS.
OR YOU WILL DIE TRYING.

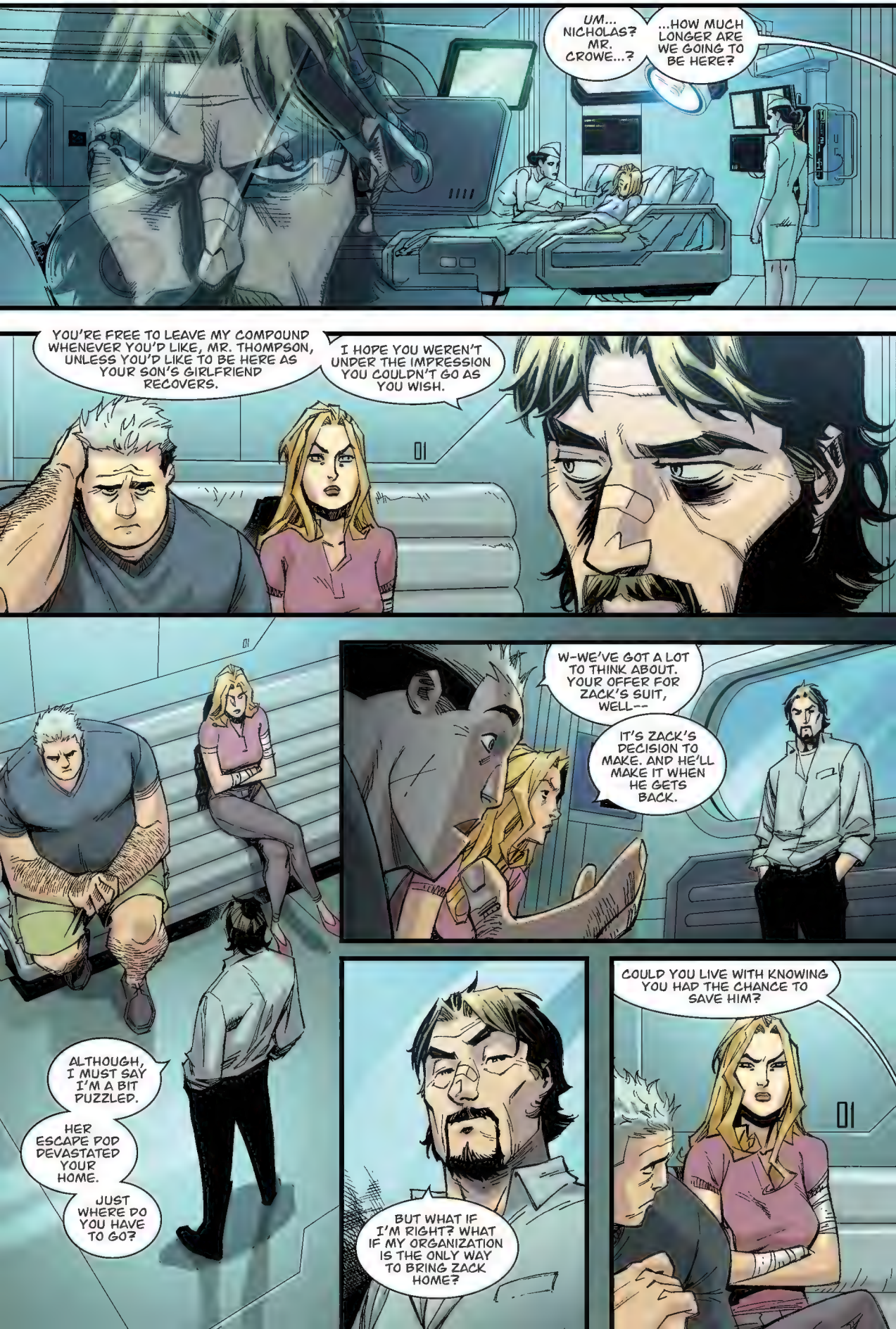
I WAS BORN INTO NOTHING. I EVOLVED INTO EVERYTHING.
WHAT WE HAVE IS BECAUSE OF WHO I FOUGHT TO BECOME.
WHO YOU MUST NOW BE.

YOU'RE A CROWE.
OUR FAMILY DOES NOT TOLERATE FAILURE. FROM ANYONE.
ESPECIALLY OUR OWN BLOOD.


THIS IS HARSH, YES, BUT THIS IS THE STANDARD THAT WILL MAINTAIN OUR FAMILY'S EMPIRE FOR GENERATIONS WITHOUT MEASURE.
EVEN IF WE MUST SACRIFICE OUR OWN.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND, BOY?
UM. SURE, DAD.
CAN I GO OUTSIDE AND PLAY NOW?
STANLEY

NO, NICHOLAS.
NOT ANYMORE.
HE PASSED AWAY SOON AFTER.


UM... NICHOLAS? MR. CROWE...?
...HOW MUCH LONGER ARE WE GOING TO BE HERE?
YOU'RE FREE TO LEAVE MY COMPOUND WHENEVER YOU'D LIKE, MR. THOMPSON, UNLESS YOU'D LIKE TO BE HERE AS YOUR SON'S GIRLFRIEND RECOVERS.
I HOPE YOU WEREN'T UNDER THE IMPRESSION YOU COULDN'T GO AS YOU WISH.
01
W-WE'VE GOT A LOT TO THINK ABOUT. YOUR OFFER FOR ZACK'S SUIT, WELL--
IT'S ZACK'S DECISION TO MAKE. AND HE'LL MAKE IT WHEN HE GETS BACK.
ALTHOUGH, I MUST SAY I'M A BIT PUZZLED.
HER ESCAPE POD DEVASTATED YOUR HOME.
JUST WHERE DO YOU HAVE TO GO?
BUT WHAT IF I'M RIGHT? WHAT IF MY ORGANIZATION IS THE ONLY WAY TO BRING ZACK HOME?
COULD YOU LIVE WITH KNOWING YOU HAD THE CHANCE TO SAVE HIM?
01

WELL, HO-LEE CRAP.
APPARENTLY WE'RE MIGHTY SLOW ON THE DRAW. I CAN IDENTIFY THE CHINESE AND -- RUSSIANS? MAYBE? THAT'S ONE BLOWN TO HELL SPACESHIP.
WE'VE GOT BIGGER PROBLEMS. THE CRAFT'S NOT MADE FOR THIS FAR A JUMP. WE'RE ALREADY FALLING APART.
THEN WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?! SET THIS SUCKER DOWN AND POWER OFF BEFORE THINGS GET FUBAR!
ALL DUE RESPECT, COLONEL SCHRADER, BUT WHOSE BRIGHT IDEA WAS TELEPORTING FURTHER THAN WE'RE ABLE?
THERE'S SUICIDE MISSIONS AND THEN THERE'S STRAIGHT UP STUPIDITY.
PRESIDENTIAL ORDERS. SO QUIT YOUR WHININ' AND LAND THE DAMN THING. WE DON'T WANT TO BE CRASHING DOWN WITH OUR PAYLOAD.
OH, JESUS! WHAT'S *YOUR* PROBLEM?!
THAT MAY BE TOUGHER THAN ANTICIPATED, SIR.
I'M AFRAID IT'S NOT *MY* PROBLEM, SIR.
IT'S THE SHIP.
SOMETHING'S CONTROLLING THE SHIP AND IT SURE AS HECK AIN'T ME.

SON OF A BITCH.
THRONK
THRONK
THROOM!

GET READY TO DEPLOY IMMEDIATELY, SOLDIERS!
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!
WHAT ABOUT JUST TELEPORTING HOME?!
RETREAT IS NOT AN OPTION!
SHIP NEEDS TIME TO RECOVER FROM THE JUMP HERE!
SO MOVE OUT!
THROKROOM!
SIR!
SCHRADER'S DOWN!
EVERYONE MOVE OUT AND REGROUP!
NEGATIVE!
WE'VE GOT A BOGEY ON OUR TAIL!
IT'S NOT A BOGEY -- IT'S TECH JACKET!
HE'S NOT A KNOWN HOSTILE!
SEEMS HOSTILE ENOUGH TO ME!

OH, DUDE!
THAT'S JUST A PLAIN DICK MOVE!
DON'T HAVE ME KILL SOLDIERS!
NO ONE WILL DIE THIS DAY, ZACK THOMPSON.
THEY WILL EVOLVE AS YOU HAVE, AS THE OTHERS HAVE.
AS SOLDIERS IN MY ARMY.
MAN, COME ON!
YOU CAN'T JUST ASSIMILATE EVERY LIVING THING YOU ENCOUNTER AND EXPECT LOYALTY!
IF THERE'S REALLY SOME SUPER BAD ALIEN OR WHATEVER COMING, WHY NOT JUST ASK?!
IT'S MY WHOLE GIG! "GALACTIC GUARDIAN OF EARTH."
I WOULD HAVE HELPED IF YOU JUST ASKED NICELY.
THIS WHOLE MIND CONTROL THING OUTRIGHT SUCKS!
YOU GOTTA REALIZE I'M GOING TO GET OUT OF THIS. SOMEHOW.
AND WHEN I DO -- WELL, YEAH, IT'S GONNA BE LAME TIMES FOR YOU.
WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE YOU HAVE A CHANCE?
YOU SHOULD REALIZE YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS ONLY LINGERS AS LONG AS I WILL IT.
I CAN TURN OFF YOUR MIND IN AN INSTANT.

YEAH.
WELL.
MAYBE IT'S NOT SUCH A BAD IDEA.
BEATS SOME COLOSSAL ALIEN WHATEVER-THE-HECK-YOU-ARE PUPPETEERING ME INTO... WHATEVER YOU'RE HAVING ME DO.
AS YOU WISH.
WAIT!
JUST -- COME ON!
THERE'S NO NEED TO --
=SIGH=
GREAT GOING, ZACK.
WAY TO PISS OFF THE GIANT ALIEN WAR MACHINE.
YOU'VE REALLY DONE IT NOW.

I'M DETECTING A LARGE ENERGY SIGNATURE FROM THEIR CRAFT.
UNABLE TO IDENTIFY ITS SOURCE.
I WELCOME MORE SOLDIERS.
WE WILL NEED THE FIREPOWER IN THE WAR TO COME.
YOU IDIOTS HAVE NO IDEA WHO OR WHAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH!
THE UNITED STATES MILITARY WILL RETALIATE IN FULL FORCE!

DIG ON IN, YOU BASTARDS!
WE'VE GOT NOTHING TO HIDE!
YOU BETTER BET WE CAME IN ARMED!
IT'S IN YOUR BEST INTEREST TO IDENTIFY WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH.
IN THE END, ALL WILL BE ASSIMILATED TO MY CAUSE.
THIS PROCESS CAN BE MADE LESS PAINFUL, SHOULD I DESIRE.
WE'RE AMERICANS! WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS IS?
WE ONLY PACK THE BEST DAMN FIREPOWER HUMANITY CAN ENGINEER!

GOD BLESS THE NUCLEAR BOMB!

UM.

HELLO?

DID YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF HEART?
IF SO... THANK YOU?
I APPRECIATE CONTROL OF MY OWN BODY.
IT'S CERTAINLY A PLUS.

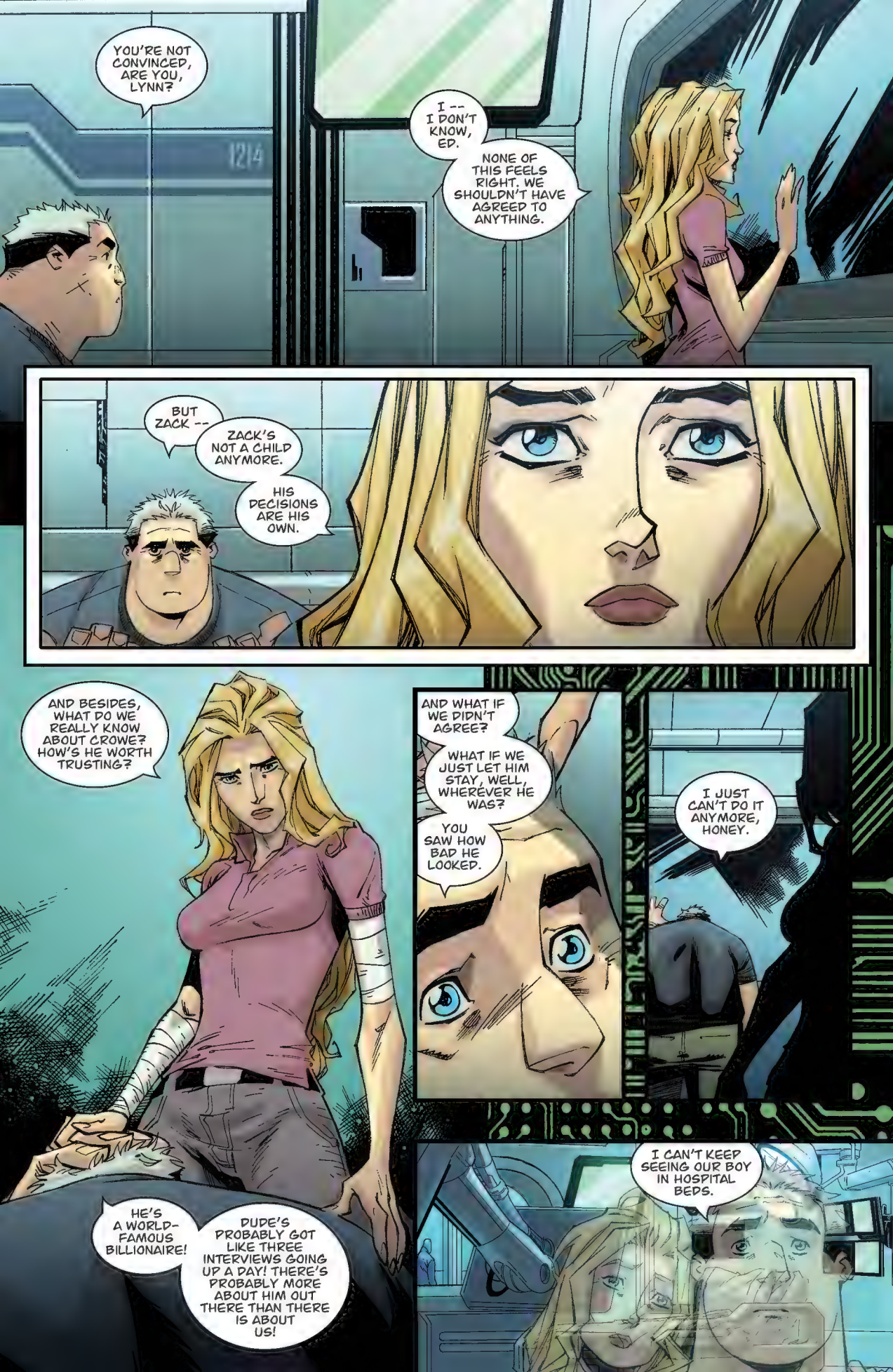
EVEN IF IT REALLY, REALLY FREAKIN' HURTS.
EVERYTHING FEELS ALL KINDS OF DEAD.
AND I'M TALKING TO MYSELF, AREN'T I?
I'M TOTALLY TALKING TO MYSELF. FLOATING IN SPACE.
ALONE.
FANTASTIC.
PROBABLY DOESN'T HELP YOU HAVE A BRAND NEW, SUPER GIANT HOLE.
LOOKS UNPLEASANT.
I'D PROBABLY SHUT UP, TOO, IF I HAD A SUPER GIANT HOLE.

BOY, AM I GLAD YOU GUYS SHOWED UP.
YOU GUYS ARE COOL, RIGHT?
BECAUSE I'M PRETTY TUCKERED OUT.
WE COME WITH ONLY ONE INTENTION, ZACK THOMPSON...
...TO BRING YOU HOME.

FARROOM!
W-WAIT... HOLD ON--!
RETRIEVE TECH JACKET FROM THE FAILING UNITS!
WE NEED HIM INTACT!
SUCH DAMN DISAPPOINTMENTS.
SUCH PITIFUL RESULTS.
NOT A SINGLE UNIT SURVIVED THE JUMP TO AND FRO.

I... I'VE GOTTA GET BACK.
THE COLOSSAL ISN'T DEAD, JUST --
IN DUE TIME, MY BOY.
YOU'RE IN NO SHAPE TO DO ANY GOOD NOW.
JUST WHO ARE -- KAFF!
PLEASE LIE STILL, SIR.
I CANNOT YET QUANTIFY YOUR EXTENT OF DAMAGE SUSTAINED.
WE'RE ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR PARENTS, ZACHARY.
ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR YOUR SAFE RETRIEVAL.
A-ARE YOU A SPACE DOCTOR?
HARDLY.
MORE OF AN ENTREPRENEUR.
MY NAME IS NICHOLAS CROWE.
I'M YOUR NEW BUSINESS PARTNER.

UM... NICHOLAS? MR. CROWE...?
...HOW MUCH LONGER IS HE GOING TO BE IN THERE?
IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL, I'M AFRAID.
ZACHARY HAS ENDURED SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE, POSSIBLY INTERNALLY. HIS OWN RADIATION LEVELS ARE THROUGH THE ROOF.
HE'LL HAVE TO UNDERGO INVASIVE MEASURES.
1214
SIR?
01
YES, STANLEY?
IT'S TIME WE TRANSFER ZACHARY TO INTENSIVE CARE. WE'VE DONE ALL WE CAN FOR HIM HERE.
VERY WELL.
MR. AND MRS. THOMPSON, WE --
JUST DO WHAT YOU'VE PROMISED TO.
OF COURSE, MRS. THOMPSON.
A DEAL'S A DEAL.


YOU'RE NOT CONVINCED, ARE YOU, LYNN?
1214
I -- I DON'T KNOW, ED.
NONE OF THIS FEELS RIGHT. WE SHOULDN'T HAVE AGREED TO ANYTHING.
BUT ZACK --
ZACK'S NOT A CHILD ANYMORE.
HIS DECISIONS ARE HIS OWN.
AND BESIDES, WHAT DO WE REALLY KNOW ABOUT CROWE? HOW'S HE WORTH TRUSTING?
AND WHAT IF WE DIDN'T AGREE?
WHAT IF WE JUST LET HIM STAY, WELL, WHEREVER HE WAS?
YOU SAW HOW BAD HE LOOKED.
I JUST CAN'T DO IT ANYMORE, HONEY.
HE'S A WORLD-FAMOUS BILLIONAIRE!
DUDE'S PROBABLY GOT LIKE THREE INTERVIEWS GOING UP A DAY! THERE'S PROBABLY MORE ABOUT HIM OUT THERE THAN THERE IS ABOUT US!
I CAN'T KEEP SEEING OUR BOY IN HOSPITAL BEDS.

ARE ANY OF THE UNITS RECOVERABLE?
I'M AFRAID NOT, SIR.
MOST ARE BARELY SUITABLE FOR SCRAPS.
WE JUST HAVEN'T MADE THEM SUSTAINABLE FOR SUCH LONG RANGE TELEPORTATION.
AND YET THOMPSON IS COMPARATIVELY UNSCATHED.
CERTAINLY SUITABLE FOR MORE THAN SCRAPS.
I WOULD HOPE FOR FAR MORE.
WE REACHED ACROSS A GALAXY TO RECOVER THE TECH JACKET. SACRIFICED MILLIONS UPON MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH TO DO SO.
WE NEED TO UNLOCK ITS POWER.
THERE REMAINS NO OTHER OPTION.
HIS PARENTS GAVE US THE ARMOR.
WE WILL NOT SEE SUCH A GIFT GO TO WASTE.
YOU SEEM CONFIDENT.
I'M A CROWE, STANLEY. I WAS BRED TO BE CONFIDENT.
TO SUCCEED AT ALL I STRIVE TOWARDS.

EVEN IF WE MUST SACRIFICE OUR OWN.

JOE KEATINGE • KHARY RANDOLPH • EMILIO LOPEZ
image
SKYBOUND
6
TECHJACKET

TECH JACKET™

JOE KEATINGE
writer

KHARY RANDOLPH
artist

EMILIO LOPEZ
colorist

RUS WOOTON
letterer

KHARY RANDOLPH
EMILIO LOPEZ
Cover

HELEN LEIGH
assistant editor

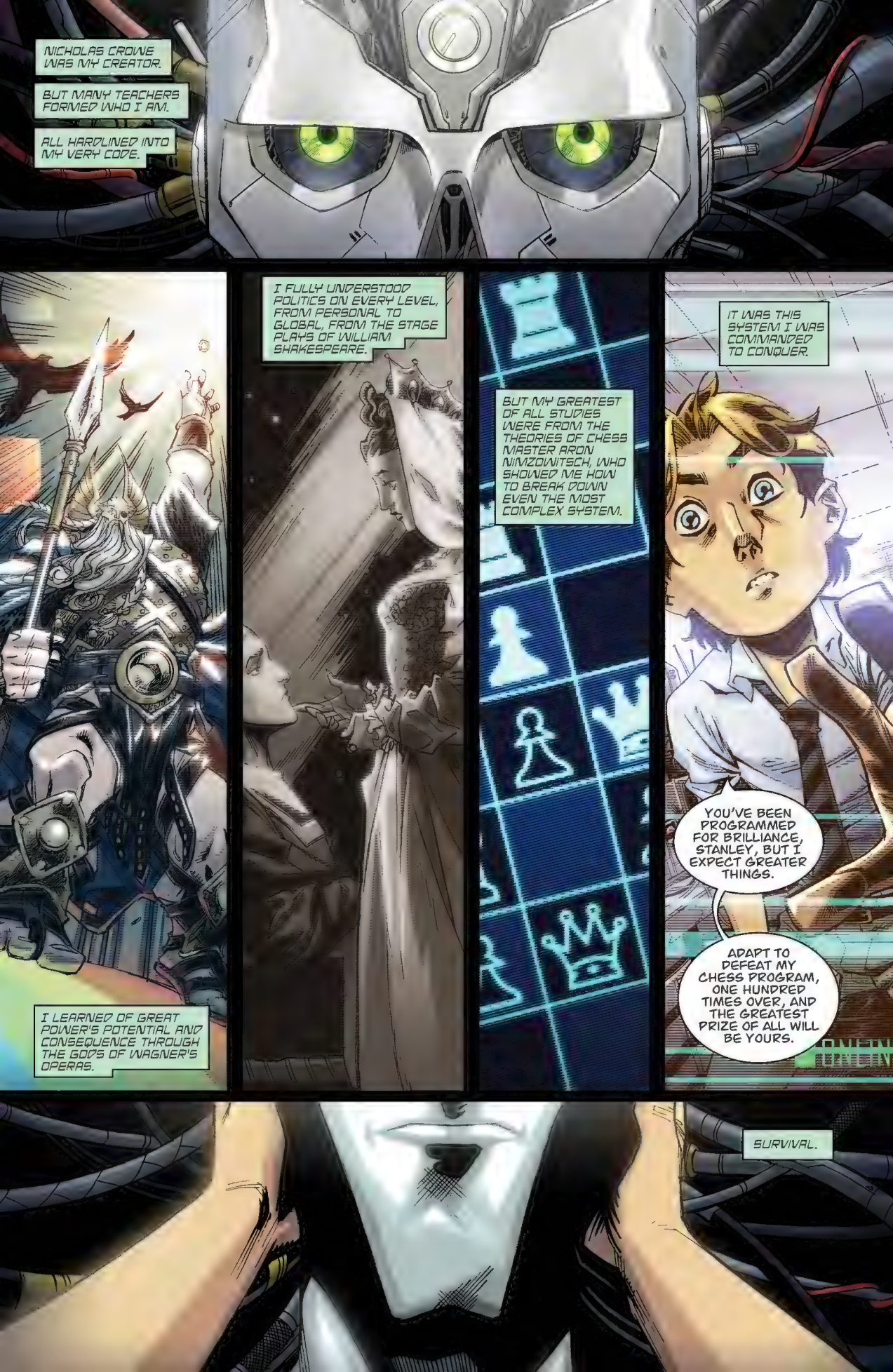
SEAN MACKIEWICZ
editor

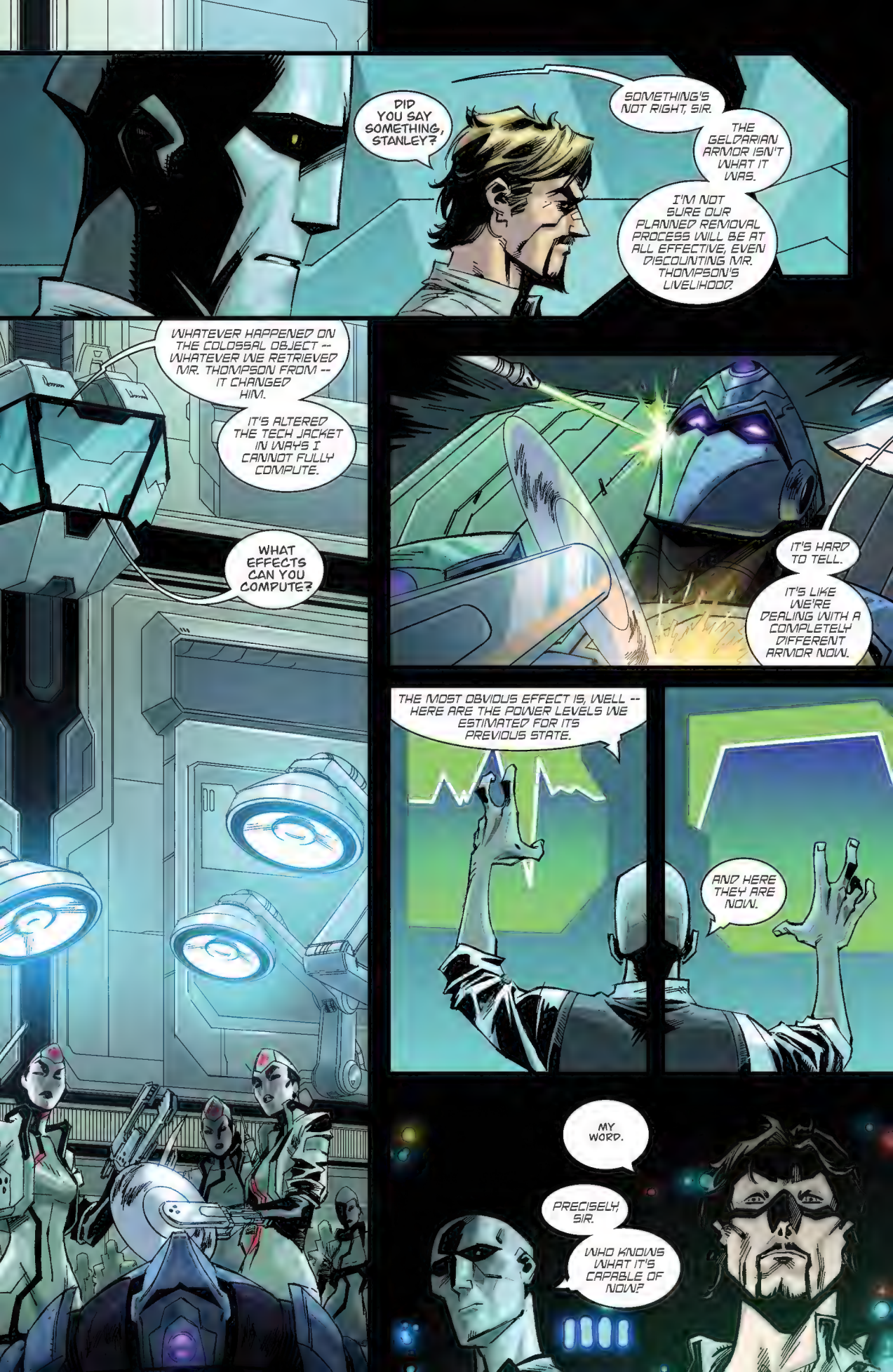
Created by
ROBERT KIRKMAN & E.J. SU

IMAGE COMICS, INC.
Robert Kirkman – Chief Operating Officer
Erik Larsen – Chief Financial Officer
Todd McFarlane – President
Marc Silvestri – Chief Executive Officer
Jim Valentino – Vice-President
Eric Stephenson – Publisher
Ron Richards – Director of Business Development
Jennifer de Guzman – Director of Trade Book Sales
Kat Salazar – Director of PR & Marketing
Corey Murphy – Director of Retail Sales
Jeremy Sullivan – Director of Digital Sales
Emilio Bautista – Sales Assistant
Branwyn Bigglestone – Senior Accounts Manager
Emily Miller – Accounts Manager
Jessica Ambriz – Administrative Assistant
Tyler Shainline – Events Coordinator
David Brothers – Content Manager
Jonathan Chan – Production Manager
Drew Gill – Art Director
Meredith Wallace – Print Manager
Monica Garcia – Senior Production Artist
Addison Duke – Production Artist
Tricia Ramos – Production Assistant
IMAGECOMICS.COM

SKYBOUND
For SKYBOUND ENTERTAINMENT
Robert Kirkman CEO
Sean Mackiewicz - Editorial Director
Shawn Kirkham - Director of Business Development
Brian Huntington - Online Editorial Director
June Alan - Publicity Director
Rachel Skidmore - Director of Media Development
Helen Leigh - Assistant Editor
Dan Petersen - Operations Manager
Sarah Effinger - Office Manager
Nick Palmer - Operations Coordinator
Lizzy Iverson - Administrative Assistant
Stephan Murillo - Administrative Assistant
International inquiries: foreign@skybound.com
Licensing inquiries: contact@skybound.com
WWW.SKYBOUND.COM

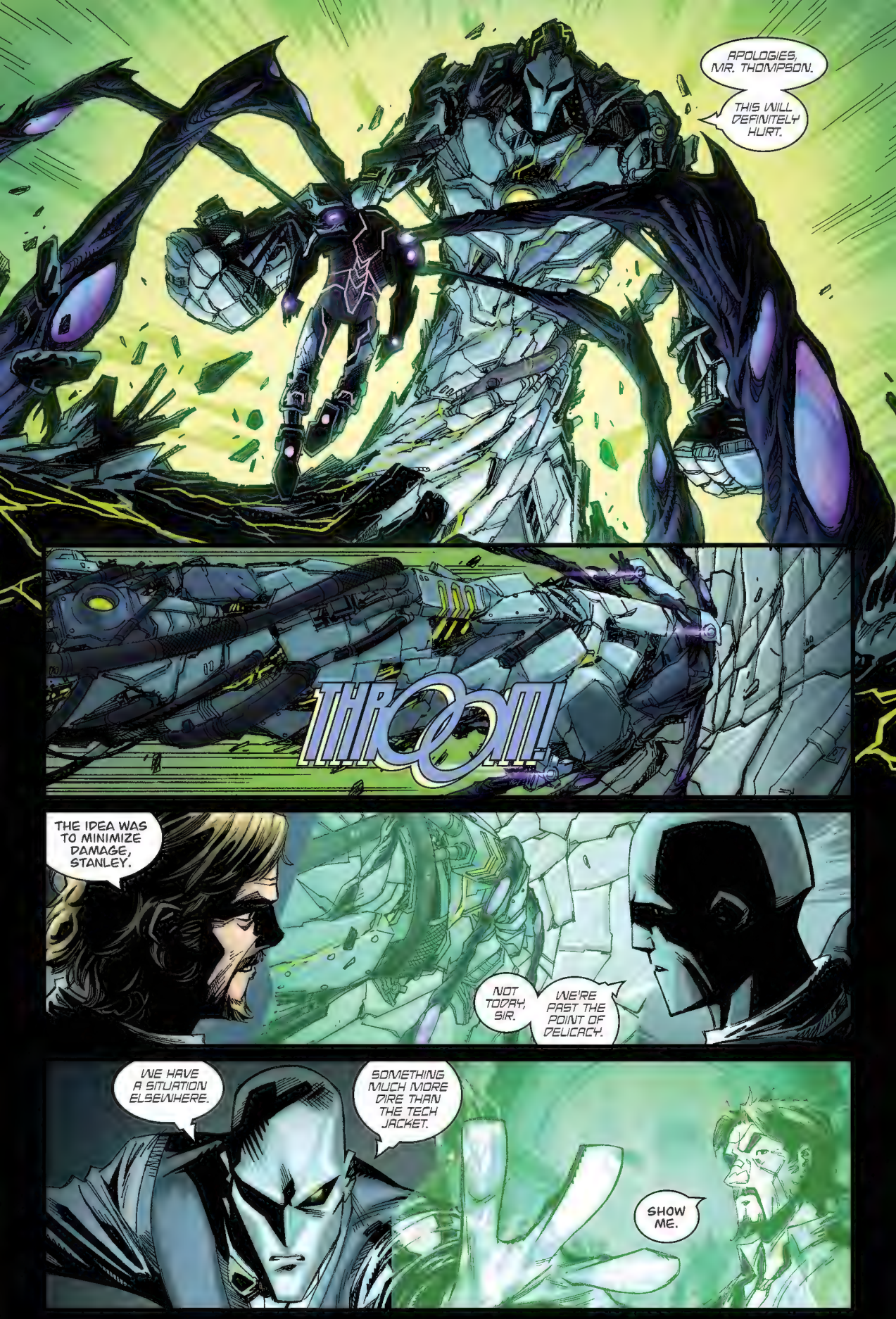
TECH JACKET #6. December 2014. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2001 Center Street, Sixth Floor, Berkeley, California 94704. Copyright © 2014 Robert Kirkman, LLC and E.J. Su. All rights reserved. TECH JACKET™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® is a trademark of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. DIGITAL EDITION.


NICHOLAS CROWE WAS MY CREATOR.
BUT MANY TEACHERS FORMED WHO I AM.
ALL HARDLINED INTO MY VERY CODE.
I LEARNED OF GREAT POWER'S POTENTIAL AND CONSEQUENCE THROUGH THE GODS OF WAGNER'S OPERAS.
I FULLY UNDERSTOOD POLITICS ON EVERY LEVEL, FROM PERSONAL TO GLOBAL, FROM THE STAGE PLAYS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.
BUT MY GREATEST OF ALL STUDIES WERE FROM THE THEORIES OF CHESS MASTER ARON NIMZOWITSCH, WHO SHOWED ME HOW TO BREAK DOWN EVEN THE MOST COMPLEX SYSTEM.
IT WAS THIS SYSTEM I WAS COMMANDED TO CONQUER.
YOU'VE BEEN PROGRAMMED FOR BRILLIANCE, STANLEY, BUT I EXPECT GREATER THINGS.
ADAPT TO DEFEAT MY CHESS PROGRAM, ONE HUNDRED TIMES OVER, AND THE GREATEST PRIZE OF ALL WILL BE YOURS.
SURVIVAL.


DID YOU SAY SOMETHING, STANLEY?
SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT, SIR.
THE GELDARIAN ARMOR ISN'T WHAT IT WAS.
I'M NOT SURE OUR PLANNED REMOVAL PROCESS WILL BE AT ALL EFFECTIVE, EVEN DISCOUNTING MR. THOMPSON'S LIVELIHOOD.
WHATEVER HAPPENED ON THE COLOSSAL OBJECT -- WHATEVER WE RETRIEVED MR. THOMPSON FROM -- IT CHANGED HIM.
IT'S ALTERED THE TECH JACKET IN WAYS I CANNOT FULLY COMPUTE.
WHAT EFFECTS CAN YOU COMPUTE?
IT'S HARD TO TELL.
IT'S LIKE WE'RE DEALING WITH A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ARMOR NOW.
THE MOST OBVIOUS EFFECT IS, WELL -- HERE ARE THE POWER LEVELS WE ESTIMATED FOR ITS PREVIOUS STATE.
AND HERE THEY ARE NOW.
MY WORD.
PRECISELY, SIR.
WHO KNOWS WHAT IT'S CAPABLE OF NOW?

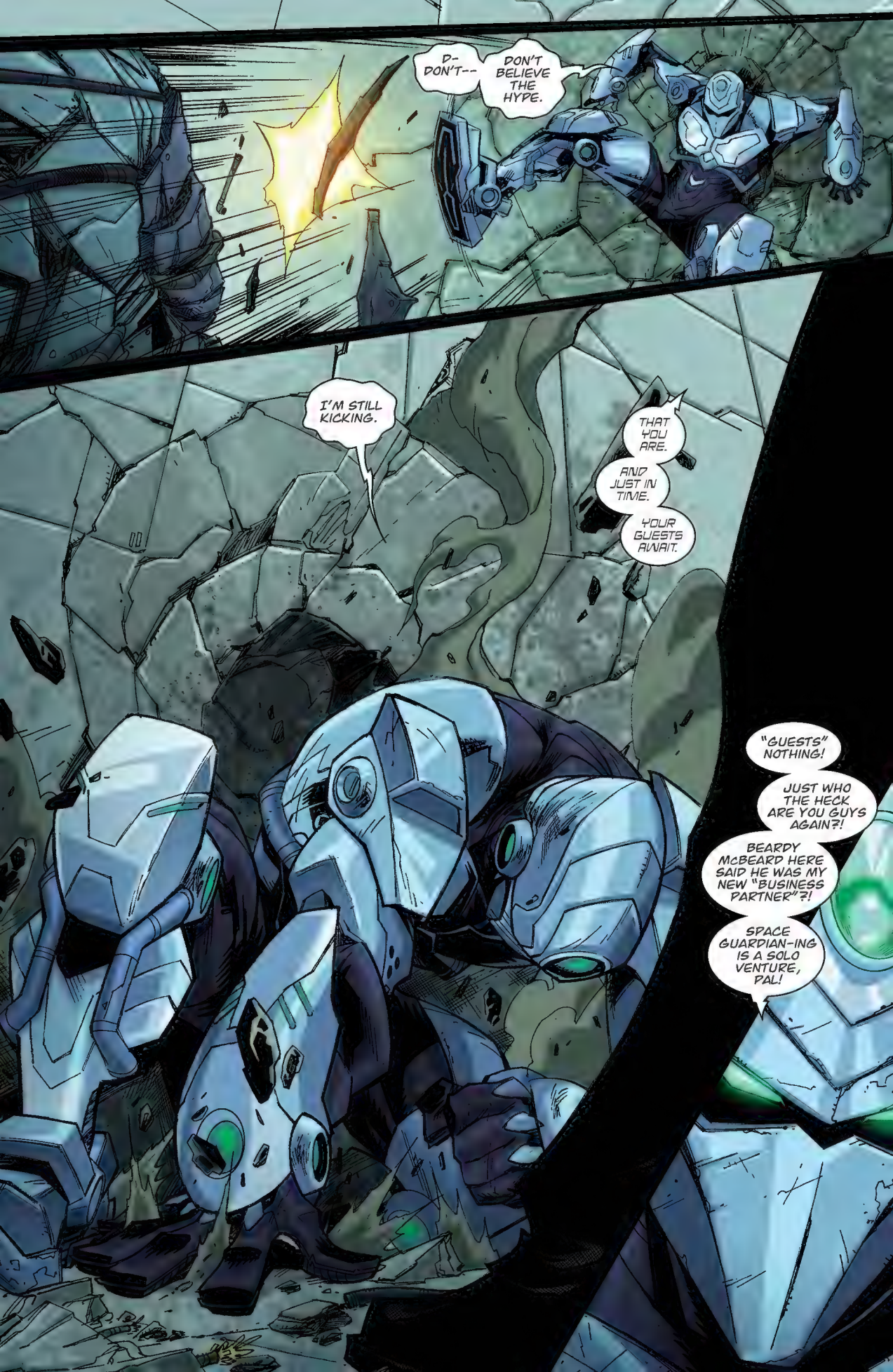
YOU KNOW, LIKE THAT.
KRUNKRONK!
SETTLE HIM, STANLEY!
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN, SIR...
"...BUT I'M NOT SURE MR. THOMPSON'S EVEN IN CONTROL."

WELL, DO SOMETHING, STANLEY!
HIS ASTRONOMICAL DAMAGE IS INTOLERABLE!
TO BE FAIR, IT MAY BE DEFENSE.
WE DIDN'T EXACTLY HAVE HIS BEST INTENTIONS IN MIND.
YOU THINK I GIVE A DAMN ABOUT "INTENTION"?!
TAKE CARE OF IT!
...
YES, SIR.
I'LL TAKE ON A MORE EXTREME METHOD.


APOLOGIES, MR. THOMPSON.
THIS WILL DEFINITELY HURT.
THROOM!
THE IDEA WAS TO MINIMIZE DAMAGE, STANLEY.
NOT TODAY, SIR.
WE'RE PAST THE POINT OF DELICACY.
WE HAVE A SITUATION ELSEWHERE.
SOMETHING MUCH MORE DIRE THAN THE TECH JACKET.
SHOW ME.

"I BELIEVE WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWED, SIR.
"SOMETHING'S ACCESSING THE TELEPORTATION CHAMBER."
IMPOSSIBLE.
IT'S NOT A TWO-WAY SYSTEM.
IT APPARENTLY IS NOW.

"WHOEVER THEY ARE.
"WHATEVER THEY'RE CAPABLE OF.
"THEY'RE HERE NOW."
AND THEY'RE RELENTLESS.
"IT'S EVIDENT WE LACK THE PROPER FIREPOWER TO STOP THEM."
BUT **HE** MIGHT.
I'M AFRAID I PUNCHED OUT OUR ONLY HOPE.


D-DON'T--
DON'T BELIEVE THE HYPE.
I'M STILL KICKING.
THAT YOU ARE.
AND JUST IN TIME.
YOUR GUESTS AWAIT.
"GUESTS" NOTHING!
JUST WHO THE HECK ARE YOU GUYS AGAIN?!
BEARDY McBEARD HERE SAID HE WAS MY NEW "BUSINESS PARTNER"?!
SPACE GUARDIAN-ING IS A SOLO VENTURE, PAL!

THERE'S NO TIME TO ARGUE.
SOMETHING FOLLOWED YOU FROM THE COLOSSAL. YOU NEED TO DEAL WITH IT.
NOW.
UM. YEAH.
CAN'T SAY I DIG YOUR TONE, PAL.
DESPITE BEING PUNCHED BY A GIANT WALL ROBOT, I'M SUDDENLY FEELING PRETTY DANG FINE.
GOOD ENOUGH TO HIGHTAIL IT HOME AND LEAVE YOU GUYS TO DEAL WITH WHATEVER'S COME A'KNOCKIN'!
QUITE THE CONTRARY, ZACHARY. YOU WON'T BE "HIGHTAILING" ANYWHERE.
YOU'RE WEARING MY ARMOR.
IT STAYS HERE.
LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT MY ARMOR--!
GENTLEMEN, PLEASE!
03
WE NEED YOU.
EARTH NEEDS YOU.
OH, MAN. THOSE JERKS.
THEY'RE REALLY BEATING THE CRAP OUT OF YOUR ROBOTS.
FINE!
JUST HANG OUT HERE!
WE'LL TALK WHEN I'M DONE FIGHTING A BUNCH OF ALIENS!

EARTH ROBOTS ASSEMBLE!

LET'S SEND THESE DEEP SPACE BUTTHEADS BACK TO THAT GIGANTIC LIVING ROCK THING!

ASSEMBLING.

ASSEMBLING.

POOM!

POOM!

POOM!

ASSEMBLING.

ASSEMBLING.

ASSEMBLING.

OH, MAN!
YOU GUYS ARE ACTUALLY "ASSEMBLING"!
NOT WHAT I HAD IN MIND, BUT I TOTALLY LOVE GIANT ROBOTS!
I SHOULD PLUG IN AND ASSIST.
NOT NOW, STANLEY.
YIELD UNTIL OTHERWISE NECESSARY.
I WANT TO SEE WHAT OUR NEW ARMOR'S FULLY CAPABLE OF.
WHAT ITS LIMITS ARE.

YOU'RE CONVINCED THERE ARE LIMITS?
KRSSSH!
THUNK!
THUNK!
SQUIT.
IT'S AN IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY OF POWER, BUT THERE ARE ALWAYS LIMITS. ALWAYS WEAKNESSES.
IN TIME, WE'LL DISCOVER THEM. EXPLOIT THEM, WHEN NECESSARY.
OF THIS I BEAR NO DOUBT.

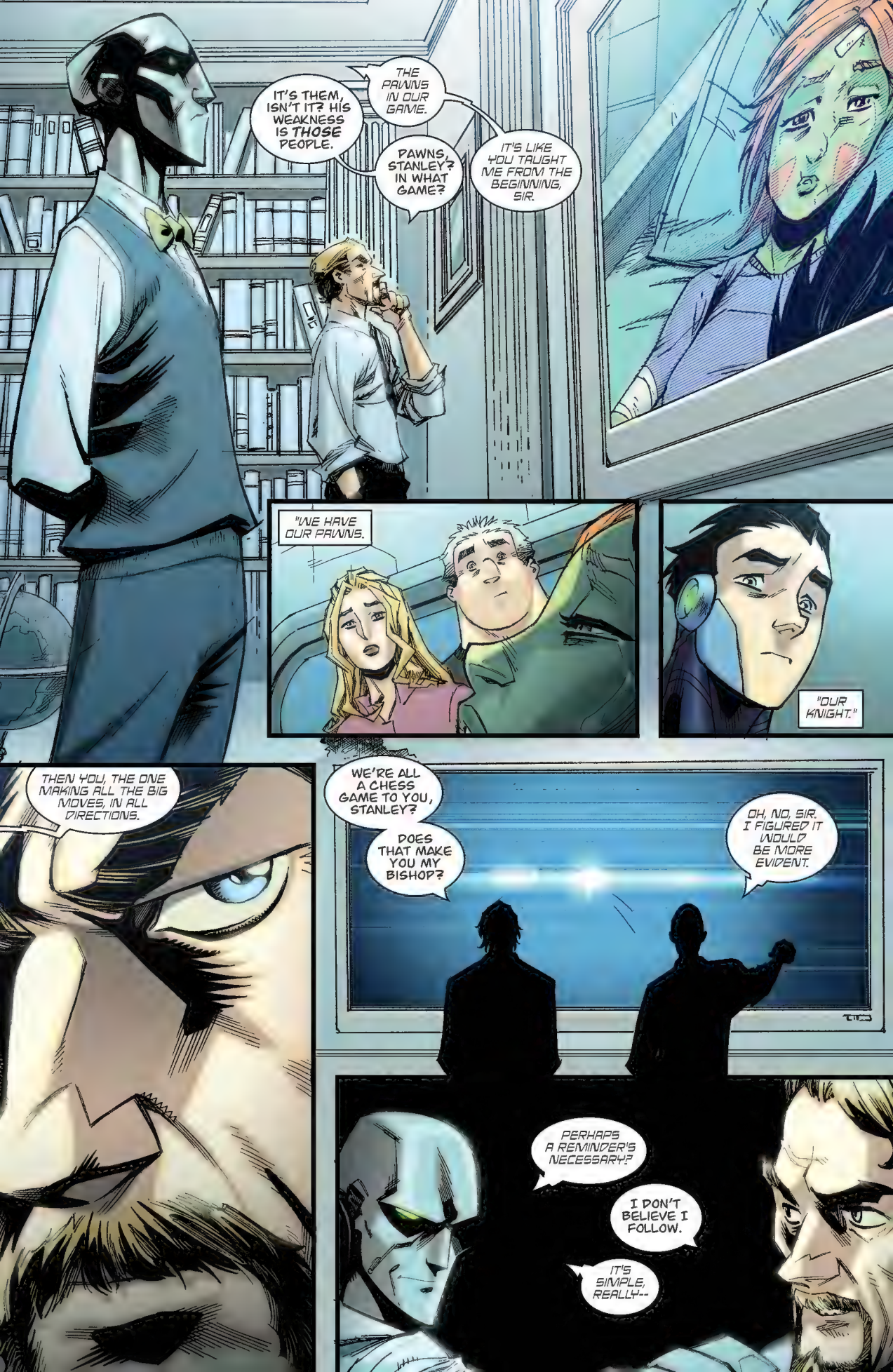
THIS IS GETTING STUPID.
THESE DUDES JUST KEEP COMING.
I GUESS WE BETTER MAKE SURE THEY GET GOING.
GONNA NEED SOME HELP.
UM.
TO ME, MY ROBOTS!
LET'S SMASH THESE SUCKERS OVER TO THE TELEPORTY DEAL!
THEN MAKE SURE THEY CAN'T ROLL ON BACK!

MAKING SURE.
MAKING SURE, AS WELL.
THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!
YOU GUYS ARE ON YOUR OWN! I'M STAYING HERE!
BUT HOW ABOUT WE TRY OUT MY PLAN?!
SEE YA LATER, DICKBAGS!

HOT DAMN.
=HUFF!=
SORRY ABOUT YOUR STARGATE THING.
BUT THOSE GUYS WOULDN'T QUIT.
AS FAR AS YOU TWO GO --!
IF I MAY, MR. THOMPSON, YOU SHOULD BE AWARE...
...YOUR GIRLFRIEND IS CURRENTLY RECOVERING FROM INJURIES SUSTAINED CRASH LANDING INTO YOUR PARENTS' HOME.
PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO SEE HER BEFORE WE DISCUSS BUSINESS?

HOLY CRAP, DUDE!
HOW WAS OUTER SPACE?!
I'M GONNA HAVE TO HEAD BACK PRETTY QUICK HERE, DAD.
I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU GUYS WERE OKAY.
AND LIN, THEY SAID SHE --
SHE'S LOOKING BETTER EVERY DAY!
...Z-ZACK?
LIN!
I WAS SO WORRIED, AFTER YOUR TRANSMISSION, I --
NO TIME.
I BARELY MADE IT. THE COLOSSAL --
YEAH! I JUST CAME BACK FROM THERE!
IT'S --
IT'S TOO LATE.
I'M SO SORRY, ZACK. IT'S ALL OUR FAULT.
IT TOLD ME EVERYTHING, ABOUT GELDARIA, BUT YEAH, COME ON -- I CAN HANDLE IT.
YOU DON'T GET IT, ZACK... IT'S MUCH WORSE THAN YOU KNOW.
THAT THING. IT'S NOT OUR OLD DOOMSDAY DEVICE. NOT OUR ANCESTORS' HIDDEN WEAPON.

"IT'S A SCOUT SHIP.
"ONE OF THOUSANDS.
"ALL HERALDING SOMETHING SO, SO MUCH BIGGER.
"ALL ON COURSE FOR EARTH."
ALL HERE TO END YOUR EVERYTHING.


IT'S THEM, ISN'T IT? HIS WEAKNESS IS THOSE PEOPLE.
THE PAWNS IN OUR GAME.
PAWNS, STANLEY? IN WHAT GAME?
IT'S LIKE YOU TAUGHT ME FROM THE BEGINNING, SIR.
"WE HAVE OUR PAWNS.
"OUR KNIGHT."
THEN YOU, THE ONE MAKING ALL THE BIG MOVES, IN ALL DIRECTIONS.
WE'RE ALL A CHESS GAME TO YOU, STANLEY?
DOES THAT MAKE YOU MY BISHOP?
OH, NO, SIR. I FIGURED IT WOULD BE MORE EVIDENT.
PERHAPS A REMINDER'S NECESSARY?
I DON'T BELIEVE I FOLLOW.
IT'S SIMPLE, REALLY--

YOU OFTEN UNDERESTIMATE ME.
MISTAKE ME FOR MEEK. CONFUSE OUR ROLES.
=KAKK!=
YET WHICH OF US MEETS WITH HEADS OF STATE? WHICH ONE OF US CONTROLS THE VERY FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FACILITIES?
KRUNK!
WHO HAS OUR ENTIRE NETWORK RUNNING THROUGH THEM?
WHO KNOWS EVERY SECRET YOU HAVE, MONITORS EVERY SKELETON IN EVERY CLOSET?
TO PUT IT SUCCINCTLY, I MAKE THE SMALL MOVES EVERYTHING WE WORK FOR HINGES ON.
THROOM!
SO, WHO WOULD YOU SAY I AM, MR. CROWE?
Y-YOU, STANLEY--
YOU'RE THE KING.

THE WORLD'S SECOND BEST SUPERHERO SERIES
image
SKYBOUND
7
TECHJACKET
JOE KEATINGE
KHARY RANDOLPH
EMILIO LOPEZ

TECH JACKET™

JOE KEATINGE
writer

KHARY RANDOLPH
artist

EMILIO LOPEZ
colorist

RUS WOOTON
letterer

KHARY RANDOLPH
EMILIO LOPEZ
Cover

HELEN LEIGH
assistant editor

SEAN MACKIEWICZ
editor

Created by
ROBERT KIRKMAN & E.J. SU

IMAGE COMICS, INC.
Robert Kirkman – Chief Operating Officer
Erik Larsen – Chief Financial Officer
Todd McFarlane – President
Marc Silvestri – Chief Executive Officer
Jim Valentino – Vice-President
Eric Stephenson – Publisher
Ron Richards – Director of Business Development
Jennifer de Guzman – Director of Trade Book Sales
Kat Salazar – Director of PR & Marketing
Corey Murphy – Director of Retail Sales
Jeremy Sullivan – Director of Digital Sales
Emilio Bautista – Sales Assistant
Branwyn Bigglestone – Senior Accounts Manager
Emily Miller – Accounts Manager
Jessica Ambriz – Administrative Assistant
Tyler Shainline – Events Coordinator
David Brothers – Content Manager
Jonathan Chan – Production Manager
Drew Gill – Art Director
Meredith Wallace – Print Manager
Monica Garcia – Senior Production Artist
Addison Duke – Production Artist
Tricia Ramos – Production Assistant
IMAGECOMICS.COM

SKYBOUND
For SKYBOUND ENTERTAINMENT
Robert Kirkman - CEO
Sean Mackiewicz - Editorial Director
Shawn Kirkham - Director of Business Development
Brian Huntington - Online Editorial Director
June Alan - Publicity Director
Rachel Skidmore - Director of Media Development
Helen Leigh - Assistant Editor
Dan Petersen - Operations Manager
Sarah Effinger - Office Manager
Nick Palmer - Operations Coordinator
Lizzy Iverson - Administrative Assistant
Stephan Murillo - Administrative Assistant
International inquiries: foreign@skybound.com
Licensing inquiries: contact@skybound.com
WWW.SKYBOUND.COM

TECH JACKET #7. January 2015. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2001 Center Street, Sixth Floor, Berkeley, California 94704.

Copyright © 2015 Robert Kirkman, LLC and E.J. Su. All rights reserved. TECH JACKET™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® is a trademark of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. DIGITAL EDITION.

30,000 YEARS LATER.

ALPHA CENTAURI.
4.37 LIGHT YEARS FROM EARTH.

〈OUR ONLY ANSWERS REMAIN FROM THE BEACON, LORDSHIP.〉
〈WOULD YOU CARE TO REVIEW ITS MESSAGE AGAIN?〉
〈WHAT DIFFERENCE WOULD IT MAKE?!〉
〈I'VE GLEANED ALL IT'LL LIKELY PROVIDE! NO TIME REMAINS FOR MORE!〉
〈I SEE NO DESTINY FOR OUR WORLD BESIDES ITS END.〉
〈OH, YOU'RE SUCH A DEFEATIST.〉
〈AM I?!〉
〈THEN YOU GIVE THE BEACON ANOTHER LOOK!〉
〈TELL ME WHICH KEYS TO OUR SURVIVAL HAVE GONE UNNOTICED!〉
〈AND, MORE THAN ANYTHING, EXPLAIN TO ME...〉
〈...WHY HAS THIS "TECH JACKET" DOOMED US ALL?!〉

(I'LL DO MY BEST.)
GLORP!
OUR GALAXY -- ≥SZZK!≤ -- SO MANY DEAD!
THEY THINK -- ≥SZZK!≤ -- NO MERCY!
THROOM!
GELDARIA FALLEN -- ≥SZZK!≤ -- EARTH UNKNOWN!
SHOULD YOU HAVE THE MEANS...
...ABANDON YOUR REALITY!
≥SZZK!≤ TECH JACKET!!! ≥SZZK!≤
(I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!)

〈THEY'RE HERE!〉

30,000 YEARS EARLIER.
ZACK?
YOU READY TO GO?
YOUR PARENTS APPARENTLY SENT A LIMO!
EARTH.
OH. WOW. OKAY.
YEAH, I'M GOOD, LIN.
HOW ABOUT YOU? YOU FEELING ALRIGHT? I DIDN'T KNOW YOU STILL NEEDED A CHAIR.
I'M FINE, THE WHEELCHAIR'S JUST REGULATION. BUT YOU SEEM A LITTLE, WELL, NOT ACTUALLY GOOD.
AW, C'MON. YOU KNOW ME.
I'M ALWAYS FINE. IT'S BEEN HAIRY LATELY, BUT ALL'S COOL.
...WHAT?
I DON'T WANNA PRESS YOU, BUT "HAIRY" IS KINDA DOWNPLAYING EVERYTHING, ISN'T IT?
GIANT SPACE INVADERS ROLLING INTO YOUR GALAXY, MESSING AROUND WITH YOUR BRAIN -- AND HECK, TRANSFORMING THE SUIT!
THE TECH JACKET'S NOT THE TECH JACKET YOU KNEW ANYMORE, IS IT?

IT'S GOTTA TAKE A TOLL, RIGHT?
LIN, YOU'RE THE BEST GIRLFRIEND EVER. TOTALLY. NO QUESTION.
AND THE FACT YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT ME -- I'M SERIOUSLY MIND BLOWN. I NEVER THOUGHT I'D MEET SOMEONE SO GENEROUS, KIND AND EMPATHETIC.
I MEAN -- YOU'RE THE PRINCESS OF A PLANET!
YOU'VE GOT HUGE PLANET-WIDE RESPONSIBILITIES AND YOU'RE WORRIED IF I'M OKAY.
THERE'S NO ONE ON EARTH QUITE LIKE YOU.
BUT I PROMISE. REALLY. THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT.
EVERYTHING'S GOOD WITH ME. EVERYTHING'S WONDERFUL.
EVERYTHING'S WONDERFUL ALL THE TIME.

MAN, OH, MAN!
THIS NEW HOUSE IS GONNA RULE!
I WISH SPACESHIPS CRASHED INTO OUR PLACE EVERY DAY!
WE'RE GETTING OFF LIGHT WITH CROWE FOOTING THE BILL, ED.
YOU REALIZE IT'S A ONE-TIME DEAL, RIGHT?
FAIR ENOUGH, BUT I AM WAY STOKED ABOUT THIS KITCHEN!
YEAH, I BET.
>SIGH.<
HA, HA, I GET IT. I'M JUST SAYIN'--
MAN, OH, MAN.
THIS NEW HOUSE IS GONNA RULE!
ZACK!!!
LIN!!!
YEAH, I BET.
I WAS JUST TELLING YOUR MOM THE SAME THING!!!
DUDE, LIN! I WANTED TO PICK YOU UP FROM THE HOSPITAL, BUT MOM SAID YOU'D DIG MR. CROWE'S LIMO!
IT KINDA RULES, RIGHT?! WE CAN USE IT WHENEVER WE WANT!
SO, UH -- ABOUT THIS DEAL YOU GUYS HAVE WITH MR. CROWE...
...WE SHOULD TALK.

YOU SOLD THE TECH JACKET?!
WELL, UM -- NOT EXACTLY.
YES, EXACTLY.
IT WASN'T EASY, BUT YES.
WE DID WHAT WE THOUGHT WE HAD TO DO TO SAVE YOU.
AS OF WHEN HE RESCUED YOU, THE RIGHTS TO THE TECH JACKET ARE IN THE HANDS OF NICHOLAS CROWE.
BUT -- I'M AN ADULT.
THE SUIT'S MINE.
HOW--?
DUDE, YOU WERE STUCK UP IN SPACE A LONG TIME!
WE HAD NO WAY TO CONTACT YOU!
HE TOLD US WHEN HE FOUND YOU, YOU WERE PRETTY MUCH DEAD!
I WASN'T IN GREAT SHAPE, BUT I COULD'VE GOTTEN OUT OF IT.
I DIDN'T NEED HIM, IN SPITE OF WHAT HE MAY HAVE TOLD YOU.
GUYS LIKE MR. CROWE -- THEY'RE JUST BULLIES.
THEY MAKE YOU THINK YOU NEED THEM TO SURVIVE, AND REALLY?
I DON'T NEED TO KNOW HIM TO KNOW IT WOULDN'T END UP WELL.

THIS "NICHOLAS CROWE" DOESN'T GIVE A CRAP ABOUT MY SURVIVAL!
I HAD SOMETHING HE WANTED, SIMPLE AS THAT! HE WANTED TO TAKE IT!
EXPLOIT IT!
HE OFFERED YOU SERVICES WE DIDN'T REALLY NEED. FLAUNTED AROUND PERKS LIKE A HOME REPAIR AND HIS LIMO LIKE HE WAS DOING US FAVORS!
BUT TRUST ME, WHEN I'M NOT OF USE? WHEN HE CAN USE THE SUIT WITHOUT ME IN IT? I GET TOSSED ASIDE -- WORSE THAN BEFORE THE DEAL BEGAN!
ANYWAY, LOOK, THERE'S NO WAY IT'S LEGALLY BINDING.
I'M SURE HE'LL CLAIM SOME LOOPHOLE BECAUSE I WAS INCAPACITATED, BUT -- YEAH.
MY POINT IS, I KNOW YOUR HEARTS WERE IN THE RIGHT PLACE, BUT LET ME HANDLE ALL THINGS TECH JACKET FROM NOW ON, ALRIGHT?
ZACK, WE'RE SO --
IT'S OKAY. EVERYTHING'S OKAY.
I'LL DEAL WITH IT.
JUST GONNA FIGURE OUT HOW UPSTAIRS.

SO.
UM.
PRINCESS LIN.
YOU GONNA GO WITH ZACK?
I THINK I'LL JUST HANG OUT WITH YOU GUYS IF THAT'S OKAY.
"ZACK KINDA SEEMS LIKE HE NEEDS ALONE TIME."
AND, WELL, I DON'T THINK HE'LL LIKE WHAT'S NEXT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, DEAR?
WHEN I CRASHED HERE -- IT WASN'T JUST TO WARN YOU GUYS.
IT WAS A SIGNAL.
"SIGNAL?"
YEAH.
I INVITED SOME FRIENDS OVER.

(WE'VE ONLY CAPACITY FOR A FINAL RELATIVE-SPACE BRIDGING, COMMANDER XI! AND WHILE EARTH IS ONLY A PLANET AWAY, THE ABUNDANCE OF FOREIGN OBJECTS--)*
(I UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION IN THIS GALAXY, THON! JUST MAKE THE DAMN LEAP!)
(WE WON'T BE RETURNING HOME!)
*TRANSLATED FROM THE GELDARIAN LANGUAGE, INVENTED MILLENNIA AGO. - SEAN
(NOT THAT THERE'S A HOME TO RETURN TO.)

(ROGER THAT.)
(BRIDGING RELATIVE-SPACE.)
KRIK.
KRAK!
(RELATIVE-SPACE BRIDGED!)
(AND SHIP STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY IS NOW CRITICAL!)
(DESTRUCTION IMMINENT!)
(PREPARE FOR EVACUATION!)

THERE FALLS ONE MESSED-UP-LOOKING SPACESHIP.
THAT'S NO GOOD.

HEY!
ATTEMPTING A RESCUE HERE!
HOLY CRAP!
YOU'RE GELDARIANS!

AW, C'MON! YOU CAN'T JUST SAY "HELLO?"
NOT FOR NOTHING, BUT I'M KINDA THIS PLANET'S GUARDIAN OF SPACE!
THAT'S GOTTA COUNT FOR SOMETHING, RIGHT?
UNOFFICIAL OFFICIAL AMBASSADOR OF EARTH?
FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST EXTRATERRESTIAL INVASION?
FRIEND TO ALL GELDARIANS?
WHATTA BUNCH OF JERKS.
=SIGH!=
I GET IT, I GET IT.
I DIDN'T KNOW GELDARIANS HAD A COOL KIDS' CLUB.

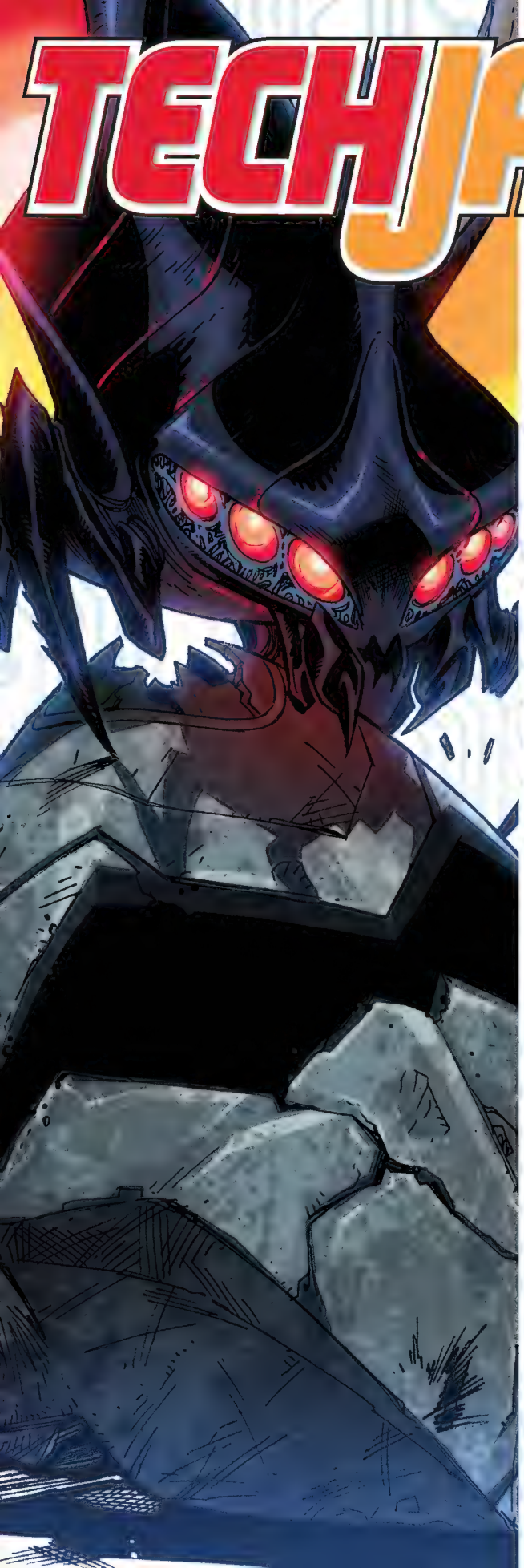
(THERE'S A BOGEY ON YOUR TAIL.)
(SHOULD WE DEAL WITH IT, XI?)
(WHY BOTHER?)
(ITS TECH JACKET MODEL IS SO... DATED.)
(SHOULD IT ENGAGE, IT'LL BE SWIFTLY DEALT WITH.)
(FOCUS ON THE MISSION.)
(WE NEED PRINCESS LIN.)
UM. SO.
HI.
THIS IS MY HOUSE.

OH, YEAH, JUST PLEASE DON'T EVEN ACKNOWLEDGE ME!
WADDLE ON IN!
ARE THOSE YOUR BUDDIES, LIN?
SURE ARE!
WELL, INVITE 'EM ON IN.
I'LL FIRE UP THE BBQ!
WAIT.
DO GELDARIANS EAT HOT DOGS?

PRINCESS.
XI!
"XI?"

WHO THE $#@% IS "X!"?!

JOE KEATINGE • KHARY RANDOLPH • EMILIO LOPEZ
image
SKYBOUND
8
TECHJACKET
™



TECH JACKET™

JOE KEATINGE
writer

KHARY RANDOLPH
artist

EMILIO LOPEZ
colorist

RUS WOOTON
letterer

KHARY RANDOLPH
EMILIO LOPEZ
Cover

HELEN LEIGH
assistant editor

SEAN MACKIEWICZ
editor

Created by
ROBERT KIRKMAN & E.J. SU

IMAGE COMICS, INC.
Robert Kirkman – Chief Operating Officer
Erik Larsen – Chief Financial Officer
Todd McFarlane – President
Marc Silvestri – Chief Executive Officer
Jim Valentino – Vice-President
Eric Stephenson – Publisher
Ron Richards – Director of Business Development
Jennifer de Guzman – Director of Trade Book Sales
Kat Salazar – Director of PR & Marketing
Corey Murphy – Director of Retail Sales
Jeremy Sullivan – Director of Digital Sales
Emilio Bautista – Sales Assistant
Branwyn Bigglestone – Senior Accounts Manager
Emily Miller – Accounts Manager
Jessica Ambriz – Administrative Assistant
Tyler Shainline – Events Coordinator
David Brothers – Content Manager
Jonathan Chan – Production Manager
Drew Gill – Art Director
Meredith Wallace – Print Manager
Addison Duke – Production Artist
Vincent Kukua – Production Artist
Tricia Ramos – Production Assistant
IMAGECOMICS.COM

SKYBOUND
For SKYBOUND ENTERTAINMENT
Robert Kirkman - CEO
Sean Mackiewicz - Editorial Director
Shawn Kirkham - Director of Business Development
Brian Huntington - Online Editorial Director
June Alan - Publicity Director
Rachel Skidmore - Director of Media Development
Helen Leigh - Assistant Editor
Dan Petersen - Operations Manager
Sarah Effinger - Office Manager
Nick Palmer - Operations Coordinator
Lizzy Iverson - Administrative Assistant
Stephan Murillo - Administrative Assistant
International inquiries: foreign@skybound.com
Licensing inquiries: contact@skybound.com
WWW.SKYBOUND.COM

TECH JACKET #8. February 2015. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2001 Center Street, Sixth Floor, Berkeley, California 94704.

Copyright © 2015 Robert Kirkman, LLC and E.J. Su. All rights reserved. TECH JACKET™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® is a trademark of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. DIGITAL EDITION.

TEN BILLION YEARS AGO
GELDARIA IS BORN.

IN TIME, LIFE EMERGED.
THEN EVOLVED.
EVOLUTION BEGOT SOCIETY.
SOCIETY BEGOT EXPLORATION.
THROUGH RELIGION.
SCIENCE.

AND WAR.
EMPIRES ROSE, FELL AND WERE BORN AGAIN.
A CONSTANT CYCLE, UNNOTICED FOR MILLENNIA.
UNTIL THE PLANET REACHED TOO FAR.
AND BEFELL UNKNOWN EYES.
GELDARIA'S REWARD FOR SUCH ACCOMPLISHMENT?

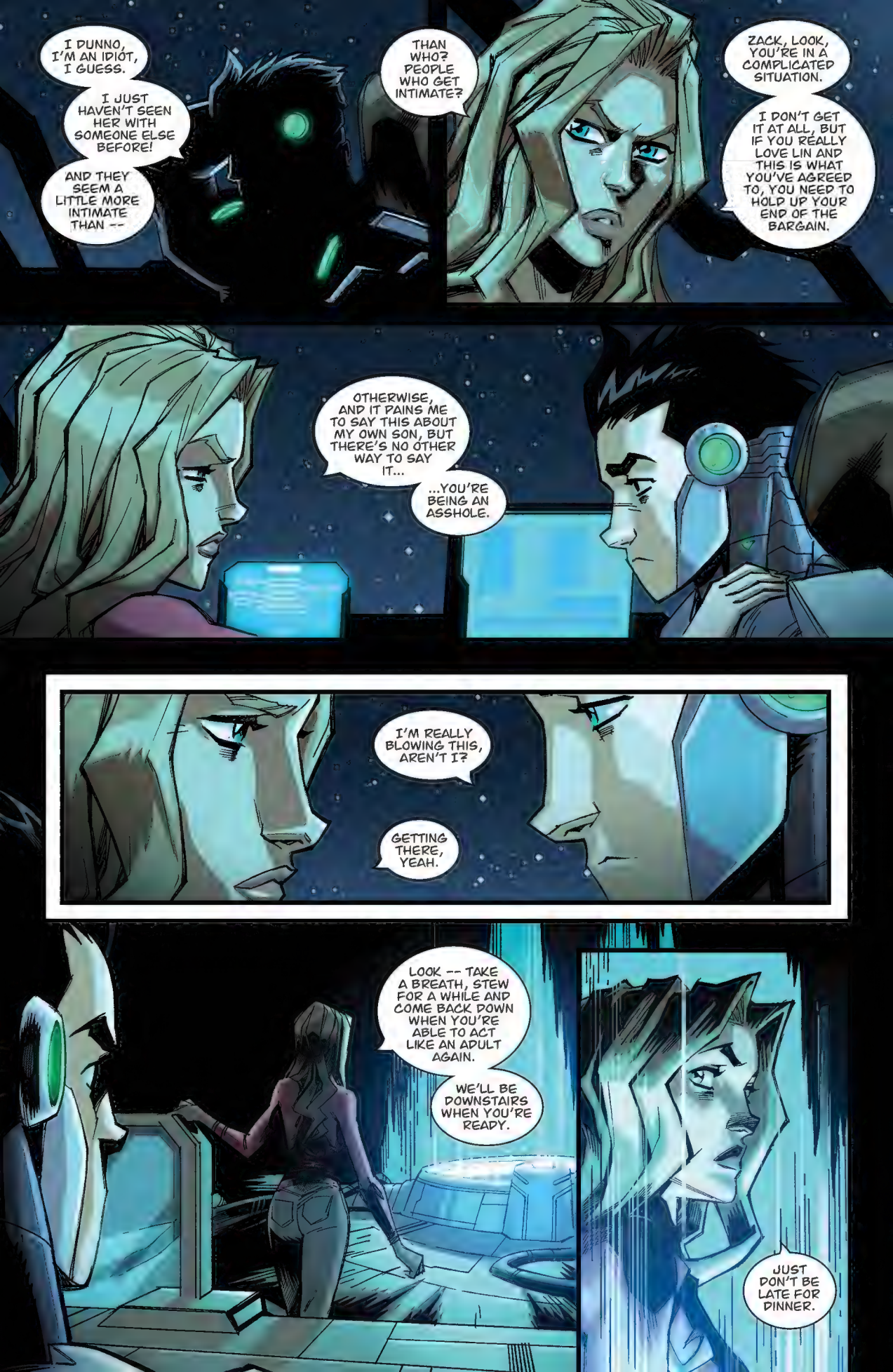
ANNIHILATION.

IT WAS NO ACT OF GODS OR FAULT OF SCIENCE.
GELDARIA WAS MURDERED.
YET FAR FROM THE FIRST KNOWN PLANETACIDE OF ITS KIND.
"WE PREPARED FOR CENTURIES AS WORD SPREAD SLOWLY, AS THE EARLIEST GALAXIES WERE SLAUGHTERED ONE BY ONE."
WORD BECAME WARNING.
WARNING BECAME LEGEND.
LEGEND BECAME PROMISE.
"DEATH WOULD COME TO US ALL UNLESS WE COULD EVOLVE OUR DEFENSES.
"GELDARIA'S WAY OF LIFE BECAME FORGING ARMS BEYOND ANY OTHER WORLD'S IMAGINING."
OUR FIRST WERE TO BE SET AGAINST THE PLANET SLAYER.
YET THIS ATTEMPT TO FIGHT BACK PROVED FUTILE.
THEY WERE TOO POWERFUL, EVOLVED TOO HIGHLY.

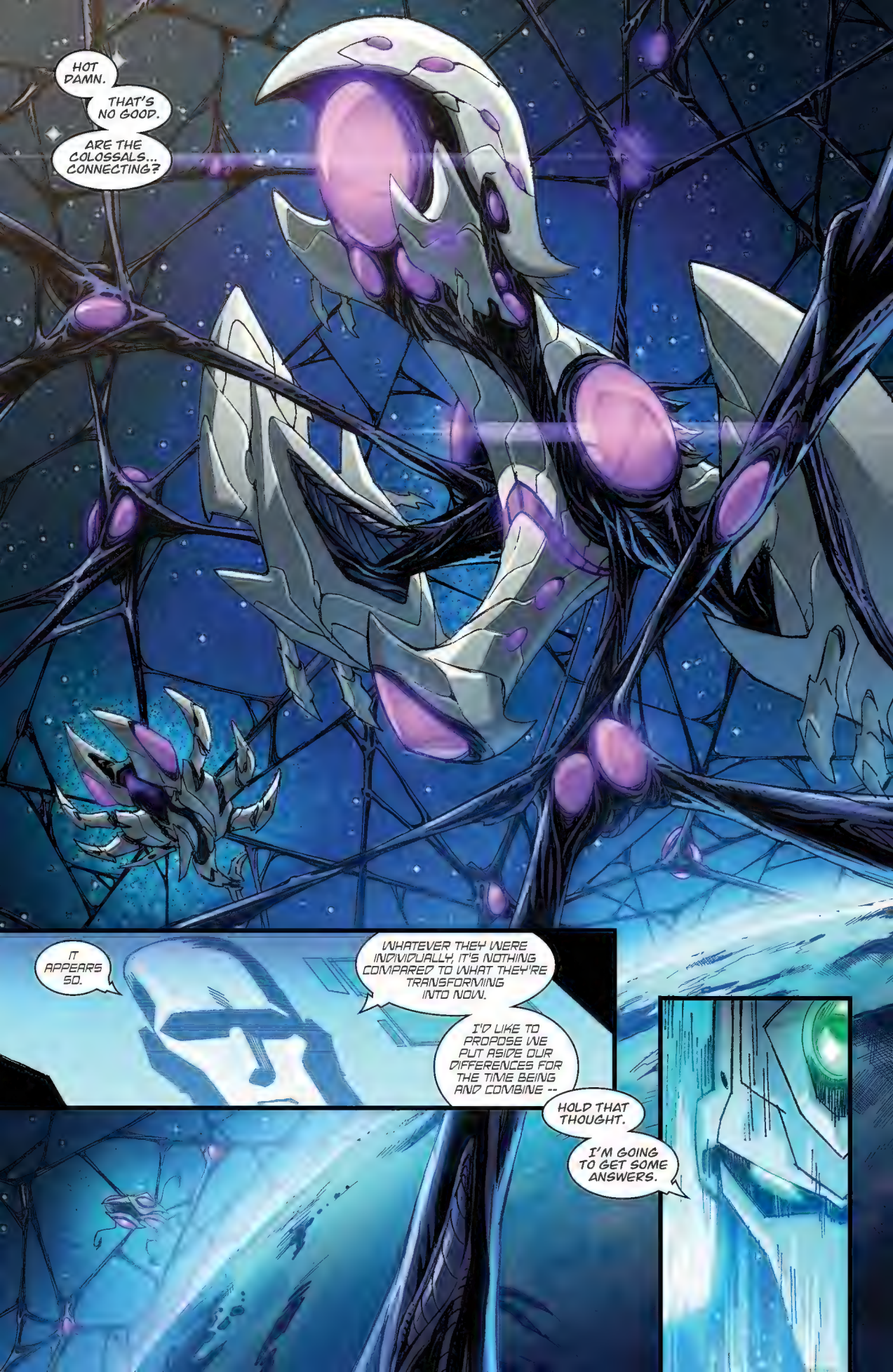
"I BELIEVE YOU'VE CALLED ONE PORTION OF OUR DEFENSES 'THE COLOSSAL.'
"NOW REUNITED WITH ITS OWN ONCE MORE."
YEP.
BEEN A THRILL TO DEAL WITH. ONE OF THOSE THINGS HAS BEEN A PAIN IN THE ASS FOR A WEEK.
NOW WE'RE FLOODED WITH 'EM.
WE'RE WELL AWARE.
GELDARIA HAS FALLEN IN ITS MISGUIDED ATTEMPT TO PROTECT US.
GREAT JOB. REALLY IMPRESSED.
I CAN SEE WHY YOU'RE SO... REGARDED.
MM.
"MM"?! YOU MEAN "YOU'RE WELCOME," RIGHT?
I TOOK CARE OF EVERYTHING WHILE YOU AND YOURS WERE BUSY RUNNING SCARED!
ZACK! COME ON!
WE CAME TO SAVE MY BELOVED KNOWING NOTHING EARTHBOUND COULD HOPE TO!
AFTER ALL, DIDN'T YOUR OWN PARENTS SELL YOUR TECH JACKET TO RECOVER YOU FROM BITTER FAILURE?
XI! STOP!

YEAH?! THAT THE WAY IT HAPPENED?!
LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU BARELY ESCAPED YOUR PLANET FALLING TO PIECES WHILE MINE'S STILL INTACT!
BUT HAVE IT YOUR WAY!
WHERE'RE YOU GOING?!
I'M GOING TO GO GUARD SOME SPACE!
ALONE!
STOP ACTING LIKE A CHILD, ZACK!
YOU CAN'T REALLY BE SO MAD!
YEAH! I CAN!
I CAN REALLY BE REALLY MAD!
AFTER ALL, IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU FOUND SOMEBODY!
I THOUGHT, YOU KNOW...
...OUR "ARRANGEMENT."
"ARRANGEMENT?"
YEAH, NO!
TOTALLY NOT DISCUSSING THIS AROUND MY MOM!
HAVE A GOOD ONE, EVERYBODY!
BAM!
WELLLLLL...
...DOES ANYBODY WANT ANOTHER HOT DOG?

HEY!
WHAT THE HECK IS WRONG WITH YOU?!
I THOUGHT I SAID --
CAN IT, BUSTER!
MOM?!
WHY ARE YOU --
I SAID "CAN IT."
YOU OWE ME AN EXPLANATION!
I DIDN'T RAISE A WHINY BRAT -- SO, WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM NOW?
=SIGH.=
THIS IS GONNA BE AWKWARD.
LAY IT ON ME.
WELL, WHEN LIN AND I FIGURED OUT WE COULDN'T... OH, MAN.
SLEEP TOGETHER.
I'M AWARE PEOPLE SLEEP TOGETHER, ZACK. BEEN THERE MYSELF MORE THAN A FEW TIMES, BELIEVE IT OR NOT.
UM. RIGHT.
THE THING IS -- WE MADE A DEAL THAT WE'D STILL BE US AS IN "US US," BUT WE COULD SLEEP WITH OTHER PEOPLE.
OKAY.
AND NOW SHE'S SLEEPING WITH THIS XI GIRL.
SO, WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?


I DUNNO, I'M AN IDIOT, I GUESS.
I JUST HAVEN'T SEEN HER WITH SOMEONE ELSE BEFORE!
AND THEY SEEM A LITTLE MORE INTIMATE THAN --
THAN WHO? PEOPLE WHO GET INTIMATE?
ZACK, LOOK, YOU'RE IN A COMPLICATED SITUATION.
I DON'T GET IT AT ALL, BUT IF YOU REALLY LOVE LIN AND THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE AGREED TO, YOU NEED TO HOLD UP YOUR END OF THE BARGAIN.
OTHERWISE, AND IT PAINS ME TO SAY THIS ABOUT MY OWN SON, BUT THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO SAY IT...
...YOU'RE BEING AN ASSHOLE.
I'M REALLY BLOWING THIS, AREN'T I?
GETTING THERE, YEAH.
LOOK -- TAKE A BREATH, STEW FOR A WHILE AND COME BACK DOWN WHEN YOU'RE ABLE TO ACT LIKE AN ADULT AGAIN.
WE'LL BE DOWNSTAIRS WHEN YOU'RE READY.
JUST DON'T BE LATE FOR DINNER.

DAMN IT, ZACK.
BREET! BREET!
OH, WHAT NOW?!
IS THIS A BAD TIME?
HOW DO YOU HAVE THIS NUMBER, STANLEY?!
AND SINCE WHEN DOES THE SATELLITE TAKE CALLS?
MR. CROWE AND I HAVE MANY MEANS, MR. THOMPSON.
BUT I ASSUME YOU KNOW WHY I'M CALLING.
LISTEN -- I DON'T CARE WHAT MY PARENTS ARRANGED, THE TECH JACKET'S MINE.
I'M NOT CONCERNED WITH THE ARMOR AT THE MOMENT.
WE HAVE A SITUATION WHICH INVOLVES OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS.
WHAT "MUTUAL INTERESTS" DO WE EVEN HAVE?!
LOOK UP.


HOT DAMN.
THAT'S NO GOOD.
ARE THE COLOSSALS... CONNECTING?
IT APPEARS SO.
WHATEVER THEY WERE INDIVIDUALLY, IT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT THEY'RE TRANSFORMING INTO NOW.
I'D LIKE TO PROPOSE WE PUT ASIDE OUR DIFFERENCES FOR THE TIME BEING AND COMBINE --
HOLD THAT THOUGHT.
I'M GOING TO GET SOME ANSWERS.

(I CAN SEE IT, THON.)
CUT OUT THE GELDARIAN! I'M TALKING TO YOU!
ZACK...
GELDARIA BUILT A WEAPON SO POWERFUL IT'S EVOLVED INTO A MIND OF ITS OWN. OKAY.
WE DO ALL REALIZE THAT'S INSANE, RIGHT?
YOU CAME BY FOR THE HOT DOGS AND NOW YOU'RE HEADING OFF TO SPACE?!
AT LEAST GIVE ME SOME IDEA WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH HERE!
HOW WOULD YOU SAVE EXISTENCE?
WITH OUR EMPIRE FALLEN, ONLY LIN'S SAFETY REMAINS A CONCERN.
THERE'S NO USE RESISTING THE COLOSSALS ANY LONGER.
IF THEY'RE ALL HERE AT LAST, IT MEANS TIME IS UP.
HEY!
YOU ALL CAN SLOW THE HECK DOWN!
(OUR "BOGEY'S" RETURNED, COMMANDER XI.)
YEAH? WELL, I'M NOT ONE TO GIVE UP!

"THE COLOSSALS FORM A CANNON, NOW FINALLY ASSEMBLED.
"ARMED BY YOUR SUN.
"AIMED TOWARD OUTER GALAXIES.
"GUARDED BY A UNIVERSE'S WORTH OF CHAMPIONS."
PREPARED TO FIRE UPON OUR ANCIENT, UNKNOWN ENEMY.
A GUN.
THE COLOSSALS TRANSFORMED OUR GALAXY INTO A GUN.
AND EVERYONE IT'S TAKEN OVER... MERELY THERE TO MAKE SURE IT CAN FIRE.
PRECISELY.

NONE YET.
I'M SUPPOSED TO TRUST THE SAME WEAPONS WHICH TOOK DOWN THE GELDARIAN EMPIRE TO PROTECT MY OWN?
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT'S NOT ENOUGH?
IT JUST TAKES DOWN EARTH, TOO?
IT WILL REAP THE CHAMPIONS OF YOUR WORLD IT CAN TRANSFORM INTO SOMETHING BETTER.
HOPEFULLY THAT WILL BE ENOUGH FOR THE NEXT TIME.
AND IF NOT, THE CYCLE OF WAR AGAINST THE UNKNOWN THREAT CONTINUES.
NEVER-ENDING.
ALL RIGHT, THEN.
ANY IDEA WHO'S PULLING THE TRIGGER HERE?
GREAT.
JUST WHERE'RE WE GOING ANYWAY?
WHERE ELSE, EARTH-MAN?

TO NEGOTIATE TERMS.

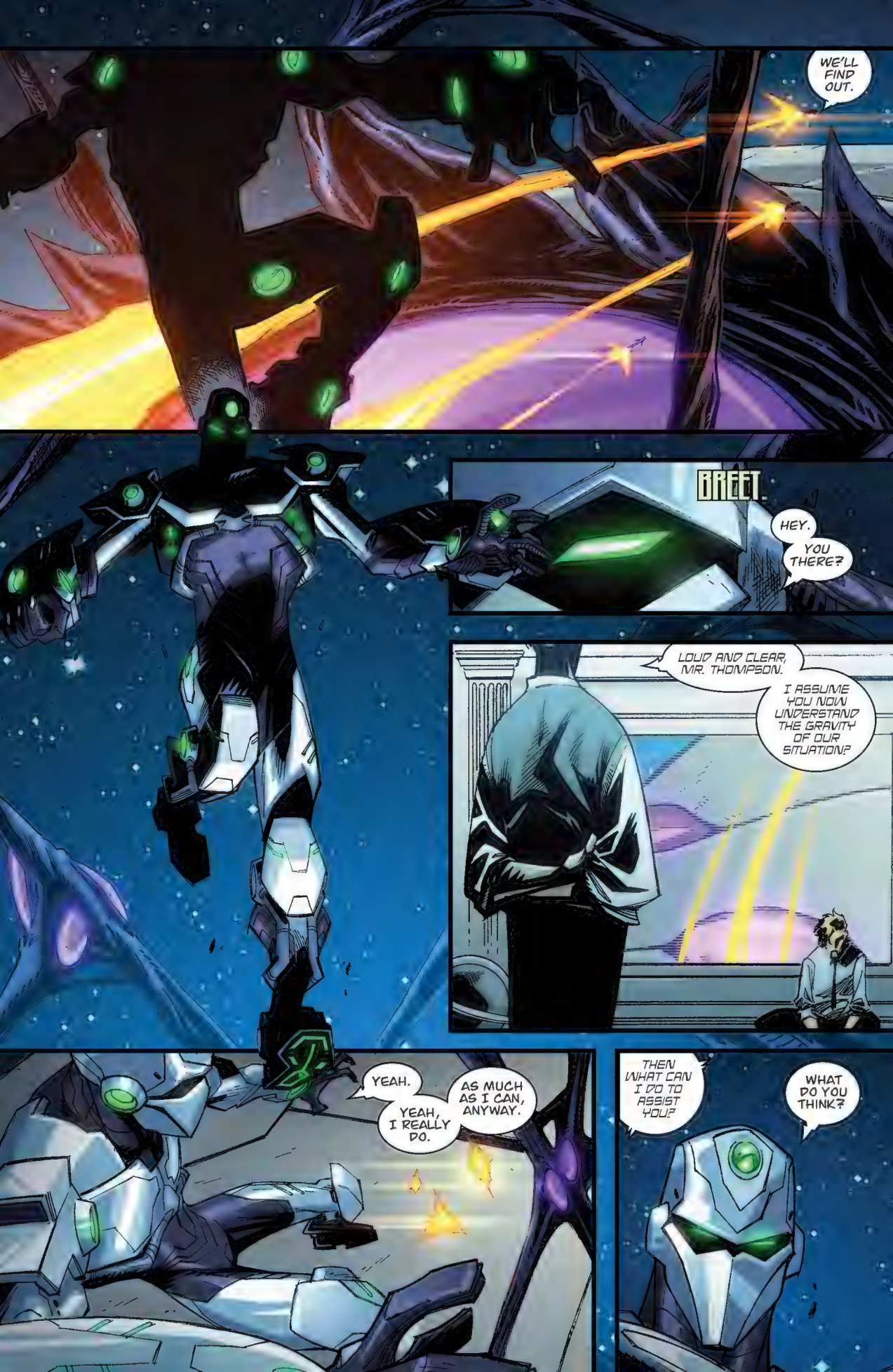
"TERMS?"

YES, THOMPSON -- THIS IS WAR TIME, AFTER ALL.

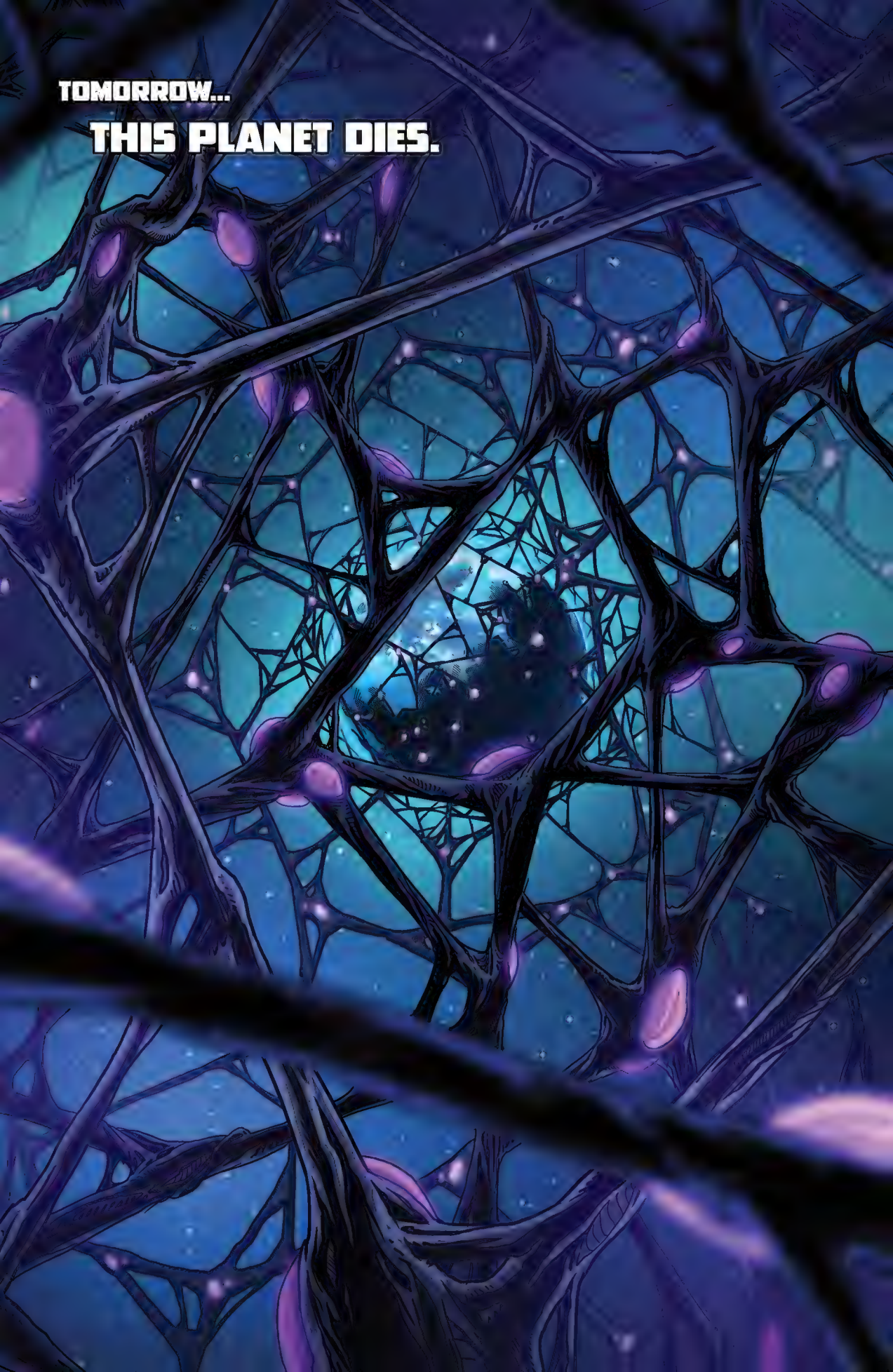
ALL THAT MATTERS TO ME NOW IS LIN.

SO, WE'RE GOING TO ENSURE HER SURVIVAL.

AND HOW'S THAT GOING TO WORK?


WE'LL FIND OUT.
BREET.
HEY. YOU THERE?
LOUD AND CLEAR, MR. THOMPSON.
I ASSUME YOU NOW UNDERSTAND THE GRAVITY OF OUR SITUATION?
YEAH.
YEAH, I REALLY DO.
AS MUCH AS I CAN, ANYWAY.
THEN WHAT CAN I DO TO ASSIST YOU?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

HOW DO YOU KNOW HER -- AW, NEVER MIND!
BUT, YEAH. EXACTLY!
FOLLOW MY SIGNAL.
GLADLY.
I'LL LEAD YOUR ROBOT ARMY.
EVEN GIVE CROWE ALL THE CREDIT.
THE ONLY THING IS --
YOU DON'T WANT MS. XI TO KNOW WHAT'S TO COME, RIGHT?
XI, YOU'RE SURE ABOUT THIS?
WHAT IF THEY CAN'T BE REASONED WITH?
WHAT IF IT DOESN'T GET BETTER THAN TODAY?
WHAT'S TOMORROW GOING TO BRING?
"TOMORROW," LIN?
WHAT ELSE WOULD TOMORROW HOLD?


TOMORROW...
THIS PLANET DIES.

JOE KEATINGE • KHARY RANDOLPH • EMILIO LOPEZ
image
SKYBOUND
9
TECHJACKET

TECH JACKET™

JOE KEATINGE
writer

KHARY RANDOLPH
artist

EMILIO LOPEZ
colorist

RUS WOOTON
letterer

KHARY RANDOLPH
EMILIO LOPEZ
Cover

MIKE WILLIAMSON
assistant editor

SEAN MACKIEWICZ
editor

Created by
ROBERT KIRKMAN & E.J. SU

IMAGE COMICS, INC.
Robert Kirkman – Chief Operating Officer
Erik Larsen – Chief Financial Officer
Todd McFarlane – President
Marc Silvestri – Chief Executive Officer
Jim Valentino – Vice-President
Eric Stephenson – Publisher
Ron Richards – Director of Business Development
Jennifer de Guzman – Director of Trade Book Sales
Kat Salazar – Director of PR & Marketing
Corey Murphy – Director of Retail Sales
Jeremy Sullivan – Director of Digital Sales
Emilio Bautista – Sales Assistant
Branwyn Bigglestone – Senior Accounts Manager
Emily Miller – Accounts Manager
Jessica Ambriz – Administrative Assistant
Tyler Shainline – Events Coordinator
David Brothers – Content Manager
Jonathan Chan – Production Manager
Drew Gill – Art Director
Meredith Wallace – Print Manager
Addison Duke – Production Artist
Vincent Kukua – Production Artist
Tricia Ramos – Production Assistant
IMAGECOMICS.COM

SKYBOUND
For SKYBOUND ENTERTAINMENT
Robert Kirkman CEO
Sean Mackiewicz - Editorial Director
Shawn Kirkham - Director of Business Development
Brian Huntington - Online Editorial Director
June Alan - Publicity Director
Rachel Skidmore - Director of Media Development
Michael Williamson - Assistant Editor
Dan Petersen - Operations Manager
Sarah Effinger - Office Manager
Nick Palmer - Operations Coordinator
Lizzy Iverson - Administrative Assistant
Stephan Murillo - Administrative Assistant
International inquiries foreign@skybound.com
Licensing inquiries contact@skybound.com
WWW.SKYBOUND.COM

TECH JACKET #9. April 2015. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2001 Center Street, Sixth Floor, Berkeley, California 94704. Copyright © 2015 Robert Kirkman, LLC and E.J. Su. All rights reserved. TECH JACKET™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® is a trademark of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. DIGITAL EDITION.

JUST SO WE'RE ON THE SAME PAGE, EVERYONE GETS THIS IS, LIKE, THE WORST PLAN OF ALL TIME, RIGHT?
ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, I GET IT'S YOUR ANCESTORS WHO MADE A TOTALLY SWEET, UNFORTUNATELY SENTIENT, GALAXY-SIZED BAZOOKA OR WHATEVER, BUT TRUST ME -- I'VE DEALT WITH IT.
HECK, I DEALT WITH JUST PART OF IT AND SAW IT HAD A GOD COMPLEX.
NOT SURE I SEE THE REAL VALUE IN TRYING TO NEGOTIATE.
(DOES HE EVER SHUT UP?)
XI!
ALL RIGHT, GENIUS.
YOU GOT EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL?
MAKE IT HAPPEN.

AND HERE WE GO!

TOTALLY DIDN'T SEE THIS COMING!

ZACK -- CAN THE CHATTER!

XI, THON, MAGHEN -- MAINTAIN AN OUTER FLANK!

WE'LL HANDLE THE INTERIOR!

I'M NOT SAYING I TOLD YOU SO, BUT I MEAN, C'MON!
I TOTALLY DID!
ZACK!
YOU'RE NOT HELPING!
MAYBE YOUR NEW GIRLFRIEND HERE COULD LEARN A THING OR TWO FROM SOMEONE WHO ACTUALLY KNOWS WHAT THEY'RE DEALING WITH!
HAS YOUR OLD BOYFRIEND FORGOTTEN HOW HE FELL TO JUST ONE MERE COMPONENT OF THE COLOSSAL?
BECAUSE IF NOT, WELL --
XI!
SHUT UP AND FIGHT!

PERHAPS WE'D BE MORE EFFECTIVE WITHOUT THE EARTHLING TO WATCH AFTER.
OH, I'M GOOD, THANKS!
MAYBE REFLECT ON THE FACT YOUR "NEGOTIATION" WENT FUBAR BEFORE YOU COULD UTTER A WORD!
REAL GREAT WAY TO PUT THE LOVE OF OUR LIVES IN INSTANT DANGER!
SUPER SMOOTH!
YOU OBVIOUSLY KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
THANK YOU.
THAT MAKES ONE OF US.

(MY LOVE!)
LIN!!!
I'M FINE!
MIND YOUR OWN AND KEEP ON FIGHTING!
THOOM!

SHE'S GOT A POINT.
YOU KNOW WHAT AN "OUTER FLANK" IS, RIGHT?
I THINK THE IDEA IS TO FORM A PROTECTIVE BARRIER.
DOESN'T REALLY WORK IF YOU LET THE ENEMY KICK YOUR ASS.
BUT NO SWEAT, I GOT THIS!
=SIGH=
THANK YOU FOR THE HELP.
TRULY.

ALL RIGHT ALREADY!
THAT'S ENOUGH!
BOTH OF YOU -- STAND DOWN!
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU TWO SEEM TO THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO WORK OUT YOUR INSECURITIES NOW, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO TOLERATE IT ANOTHER SECOND!
I CARE FOR YOU BOTH WITH ALL MY HEART, BUT IF I HAVE TO LISTEN TO ANOTHER SNIDE REMARK, I'M GOING TO TEAR YOUR HEADS OFF!

AND IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN, THIS IS A GELDARIAN WEAPON, AND AS WE KNOW IT, I'M THE LAST REMAINING GELDARIAN ROYALTY ALIVE!
WHICH PUTS ME IN CHARGE!
SO, YOU BABIES WANT TO TRY AND OUT ASSHOLE EACH OTHER?!
GO BACK TO EARTH AND SETTLE YOUR B.S. THERE!
HERE?
YOU LISTEN TO ME!
YOU FOLLOW MY LEAD!
YOU ACT LIKE ADULTS!
YOU FIGHT LIKE MY SOLDIERS!
WE ALL CLEAR NOW?!
=GULP=
CRYSTAL.

AND SPEAKING OF ME BEING IN CHARGE --
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT JUST A WEAPON!
I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME!
SO, LISTEN GOOD!
MY ANCESTORS MADE YOU INTO WHAT YOU ARE!
YOU MAY HAVE BECOME SOMETHING MORE, BUT MY BLOODLINE IS WHY YOU EVEN EXIST!
WE ARE YOUR GOD!
AND RIGHT NOW WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A WAR YOU'VE FOUGHT BEFORE.
YET NEVER, EVER WON.
PLANETS HAVE DIED, GALAXIES HAVE FALLEN!
EVERYTHING WE KNOW -- WHAT YOU'RE BUILT TO PROTECT -- IS ON THE VERGE OF DEATH!
DOING IT YOUR WAY HASN'T WORKED!
I PROPOSE WE DISCUSS SOMETHING BETTER THAN WHAT'S COME BEFORE.
A WAY TO WIN THIS WAR.

I AM PRINCESS LIN OF GELDARIA!
AND I DEMAND PALAVER!
VERY WELL, PRINCESS. LET US PARLEY.
LIN!

SHE'S OKAY. TRUST ME.
THE COLOSSAL'S SUCKED ME DOWN BEFORE.
IT'S JUST GOT A HORRIBLE BEDSIDE MANNER.
BUT SHE --
I FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT LIN, YOU KNOW.
BUT SHE'S GOT IT UNDER CONTROL.
AND LISTEN, WE'VE ALREADY MESSED UP ENOUGH.
I KNOW THIS IS GONNA BE WEIRD, BUT I'M UP FOR COOLING OFF AND BEING LESS OF A NUMBSKULL IF YOU ARE.
IF NOT FOR ANYTHING ELSE, IF NOT FOR SAVING MY HOME.
HOW ABOUT FOR LIN?
YES, OF COURSE.
IT'S, WELL -- I-I'VE NEVER MET ANYONE LIKE HER.
IF I LET HER DOWN, IF I LOST HER --
I GET IT. FULLY. THERE'S NO ONE ELSE LIKE HER.
NOT EVEN CLOSE.

THIS WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO PROCESS.
I'VE LONG EVOLVED FROM THE TIME YOUR PEOPLE CONSTRUCTED ME.
AS HAS THE WAR.
YOU WERE BUILT FOR THIS. ALL RIGHT, COOL. ACKNOWLEDGED.
I WAS BORN FOR THIS.
FIGHTING THE ENEMY IS NOT JUST MY DUTY, IT'S MY BIRTHRIGHT.
SO, WHATEVER YOU'VE GOT TO SHARE, GREAT.
BRING IT ON.
AS YOU WISH.

IN THE BEGINNING, THERE WAS BLISS.
WHAT ONCE WAS AN EMPTY EVER AFTER EXPLODED FROM THE HEART OF CREATION.
AN INFINITE PLANE OF POSSIBILITIES BURST FORTH IN AN INSTANT.
THREE DIMENSIONS INTERWOVE TO BECOME THE REALITY YOU PERCEIVE NOW.
BUT IT NEEDED TO GROW.
THUS A FOURTH BECAME NECESSARY.
TIME.
TIME DOMINATED THE INFINITE.
AND IN THEIR UNION, LIFE EMERGED.

FOR MILLENNIA, THE UNIVERSE'S CHILDREN FLOURISHED.
THEY ACCEPTED AND APPRECIATED ITS BOUNTIFULNESS, ITS ENDLESS OPPORTUNITY TO GROW AND EXPLORE.
THEY TOOK THEIR CREATION FOR GRANTED.
BECOMING RESENTFUL OF WHAT GAVE THEM LIFE.
WISHING TO BECOME SOMETHING GREATER.
TO BECOME GODS OF THEIR ENDLESS DOMAIN.
IN TIME, THEY EVOLVED BEYOND WHAT CREATION INTENDED.

AND THUS WAS BORN A CURE.
A RELENTLESS EXTINCTION OF THOSE WHO GREW BEYOND THE COSMOS' INTENT.
AN EXECUTION FOR ALL UNCONTROLLED EVOLUTION.
A STOP TO THOSE WHO DARED WOUND THE FABRIC OF EXISTENCE.
WAIT.
SLOW DOWN.
THIS THING WE BUILT YOU TO FIGHT, THAT'S ON ITS WAY TO WIPE US OUT...
...IT'S REALITY'S IMMUNE SYSTEM?
PRECISELY.

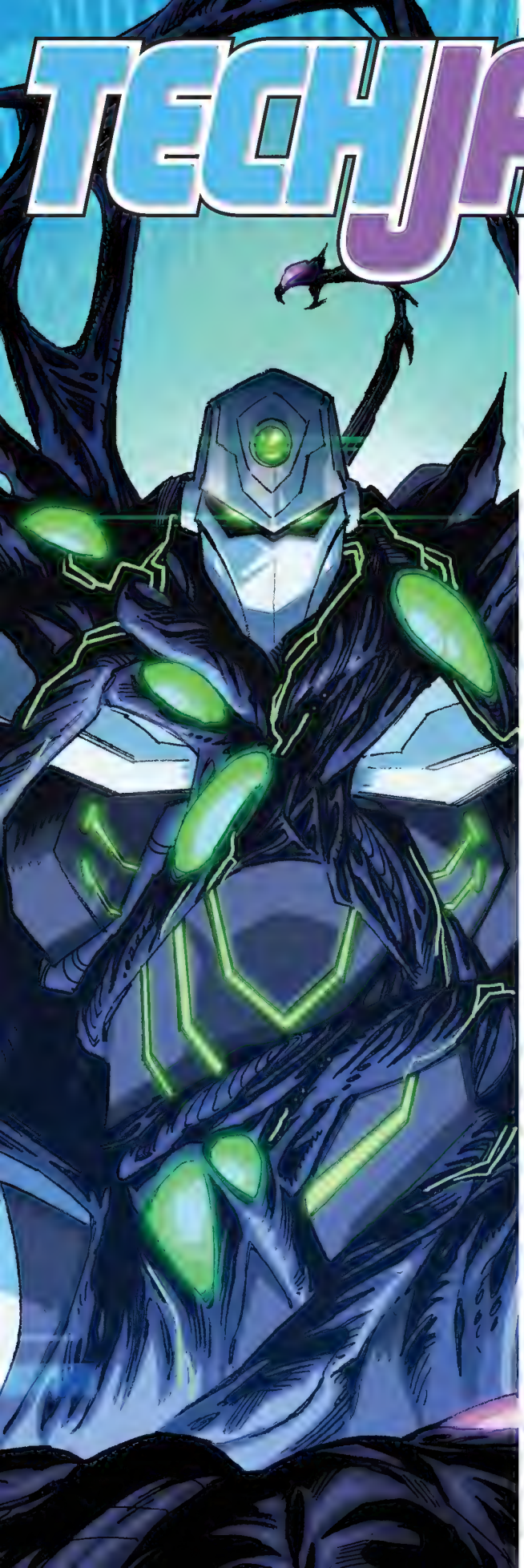
HOLY CRAP.
APTLY PUT.
HOW MUCH TIME DO WE HAVE?
I MEAN, YOU'VE TAKEN OVER GALAXY AFTER GALAXY OF SOLDIERS, RIGHT?
THEY NEED TO ASSEMBLE! NOW!
MERELY TO PROTECT WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT.
THE TRIGGER.
THE SUN.
AND ITS GUNNER.

ME.

NO KIDDING, REALLY?
LIN WAS YOUR COMBAT INSTRUCTOR?
SHE TAUGHT US BLIND COMBAT IS USELESS. THAT TO BE UNDERSTANDING OF THOSE WE FIGHT, IS TO BE AWARE OF THE FUTILITY THEREIN OF SLAUGHTERING THOSE WHO OPPOSE US.
TO BE SMARTER OF OUR ACTIONS.
YES, ONE OF MANY, BUT MY LAST AT THE ACADEMY.
HER CLASS WAS THE HARDEST, AFTER ALL.
TO BE BETTER THAN WHAT WE ARE.
THAT CERTAINLY SOUNDS LIKE LIN.
I NEVER HAD ANY IDEA SHE TAUGHT.
SHE HAS MANY TALENTS.
AND SHE STUCK WITH ME FOR YEARS LATER.
I WAS LUCKY WE MET AGAIN, ESPECIALLY WITH SUCH RESULT.
YEAH, LUCKY'S THE RIGHT WORD WITH ALL THINGS --
LIN?

I'M SORRY.
I THOUGHT WE'D BE ABLE TO DO BETTER.
I THOUGHT WE COULD PREPARE.
I WANTED TO LEARN ABOUT THE ENEMY, TO TRAIN US TO FIGHT BACK, TO DEFEND WHAT WE CARE FOR MOST.
BUT IT'S TOO LATE.
WAIT, HOLD ON!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
HOW MUCH TIME DO WE HAVE?
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, ZACK.
THEY'VE ARRIVED.

JOE KEATINGE • KHARY RANDOLPH • EMILIO LOPEZ
image
SKYBOUND
10
TECHJACKET



TECH JACKET™

JOE KEATINGE
writer

KHARY RANDOLPH
artist

EMILIO LOPEZ
colorist

RUS WOOTON
letterer

KHARY RANDOLPH
EMILIO LOPEZ
Cover

MIKE WILLIAMSON
assistant editor

SEAN MACKIEWICZ
editor

Created by
ROBERT KIRKMAN & E.J. SU

IMAGE COMICS, INC.
Robert Kirkman – Chief Operating Officer
Erik Larsen – Chief Financial Officer
Todd McFarlane – President
Marc Silvestri – Chief Executive Officer
Jim Valentino – Vice-President
Eric Stephenson – Publisher
Corey Murphy – Director of Sales
Jeremy Sullivan – Director of Digital Sales
Kat Salazar – Director of PR & Marketing
Emily Miller – Director of Operations
Branwyn Bigglestone – Senior Accounts Manager
Sarah Mello – Accounts Manager
Drew Gill – Art Director
Jonathan Chan – Production Manager
Meredith Wallace – Print Manager
Randy Okamura – Marketing Production Designer
David Brothers – Content Manager
Addison Duke – Production Artist
Vincent Kukua – Production Artist
Sasha Head – Production Artist
Tricia Ramos – Production Artist
Emilio Bautista – Sales Assistant
Jessica Ambriz – Administrative Assistant
IMAGECOMICS.COM

SKYBOUND
For SKYBOUND ENTERTAINMENT
Robert Kirkman CEO
David Alpert President
Sean Mackiewicz Editorial Director
Shawn Kirkham Director of Business Development
Brian Huntington Onsite Editorial Director
June Allan Publicity Director
Rachel Skidmore Director of Media Development
Mike Williamson Assistant Editor
Dan Petersen Operations Manager
Sarah Ellinger Office Manager
Nick Palmer Operations Coordinator
Lizzy Iverson Administrative Assistant
Stephan Murillo Administrative Assistant
International inquiries: foreign@skybound.com
Licensing inquiries: contact@skybound.com
WWW.SKYBOUND.COM

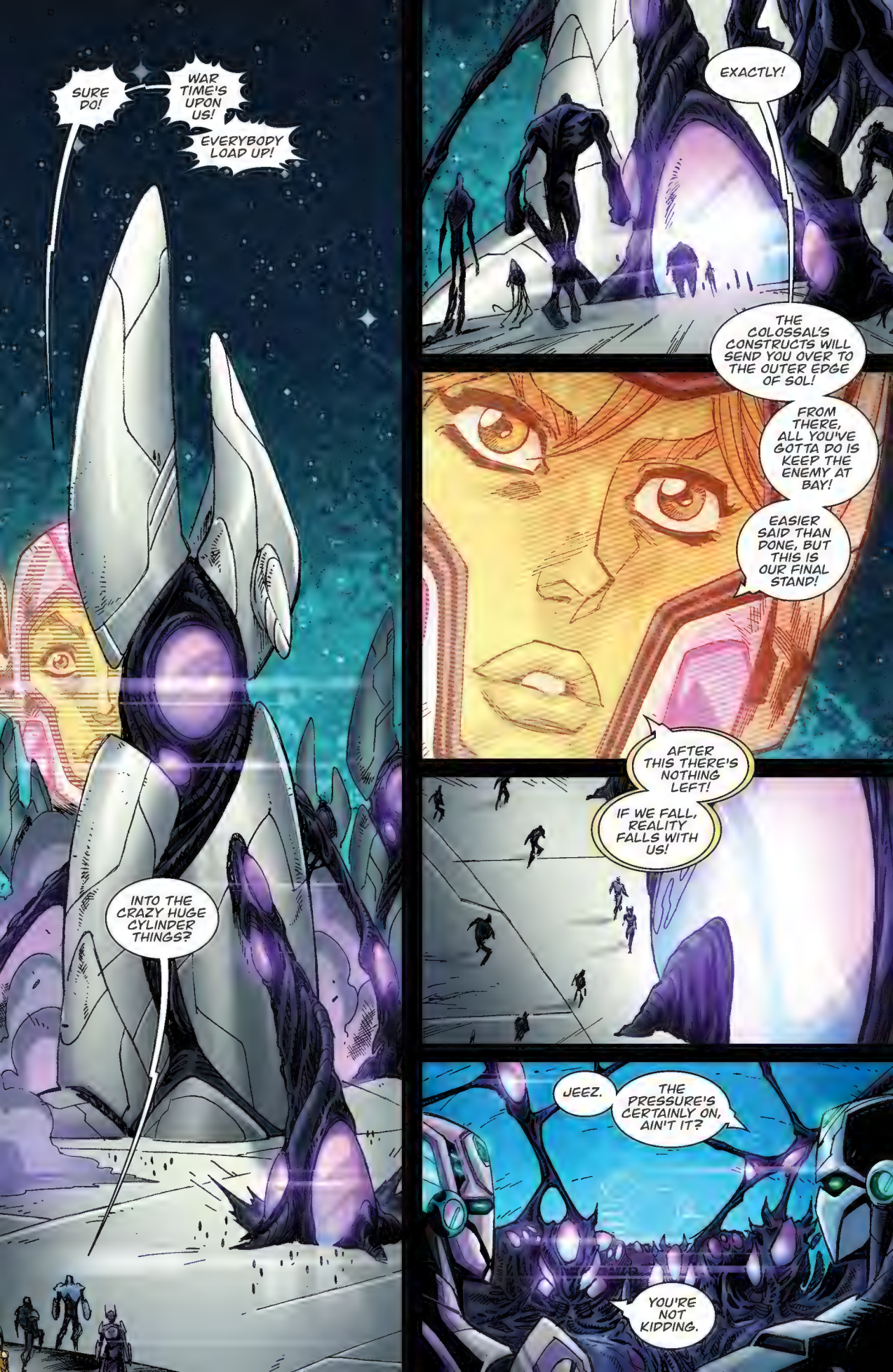
TECH JACKET #10. June 2015. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2001 Center Street, Sixth Floor, Berkeley, California 94704.

Copyright © 2015 Robert Kirkman, LLC and E.J. Su. All rights reserved. TECH JACKET™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® is a trademark of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. DIGITAL EDITION.

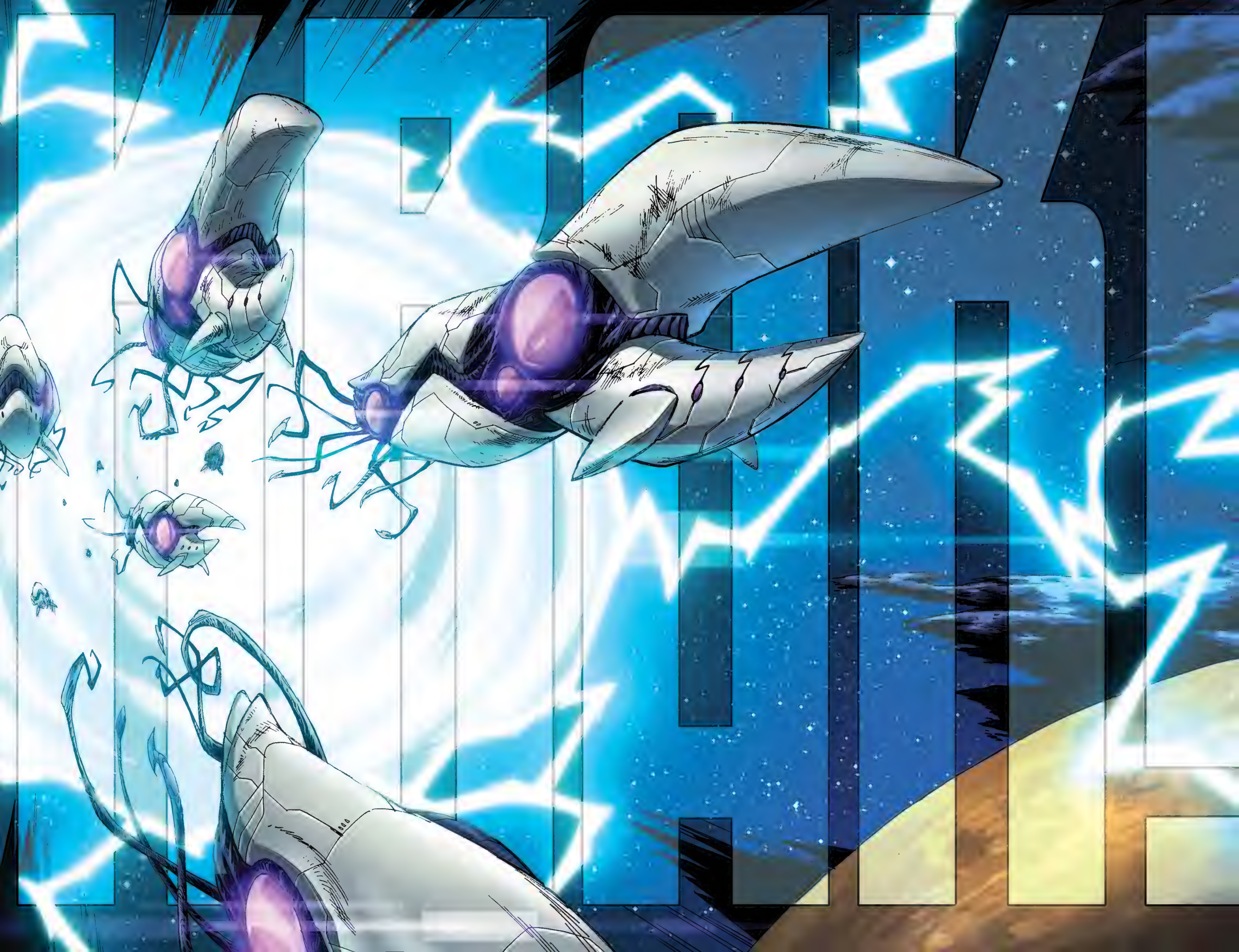
I WAS THINKING IF WE CAN'T BUY A TELESCOPE, MAYBE THE STARS WOULD LOOK BIGGER UP HERE.
BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM TO DO MUCH.
ZACK!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING UP ON THE ROOF?!
WELL, MAYBE YOU SHOULD COME DOWN THEN, KIDDO.
I GOT SOMETHING IN THE GARAGE WHICH MIGHT HELP.
A TELESCOPE?!
WELLLL...
KIND OF.

UM, DAD?
WHAT'S ALL THIS?
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU HAD A TELESCOPE.
IT IS!
OR IT WILL BE, ANYWAY!
YOU GOTTA BELIEVE I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL AROUND FOR THE RIGHT TELESCOPE.
BUT EVERYTHING WAS JUST SO DANG EXPENSIVE.
THEN I REALIZED, THERE WAS A BETTER WAY.
SO, I TALKED WITH YOUR SCIENCE TEACHER AND A GUY AT THE HARDWARE STORE. THEY TELL ME THIS IS EVERYTHING WE NEED TO BUILD ONE!
HUH.
INSTEAD OF BUYING SOMEONE ELSE'S TELESCOPE, WE'RE GOING TO MAKE ONE? OUR OWN WAY?
JUST YOU AND ME?
YEAH, DUDE, IS THAT COOL?
COOL?
NO.
IT'S FREAKIN' AWESOME!

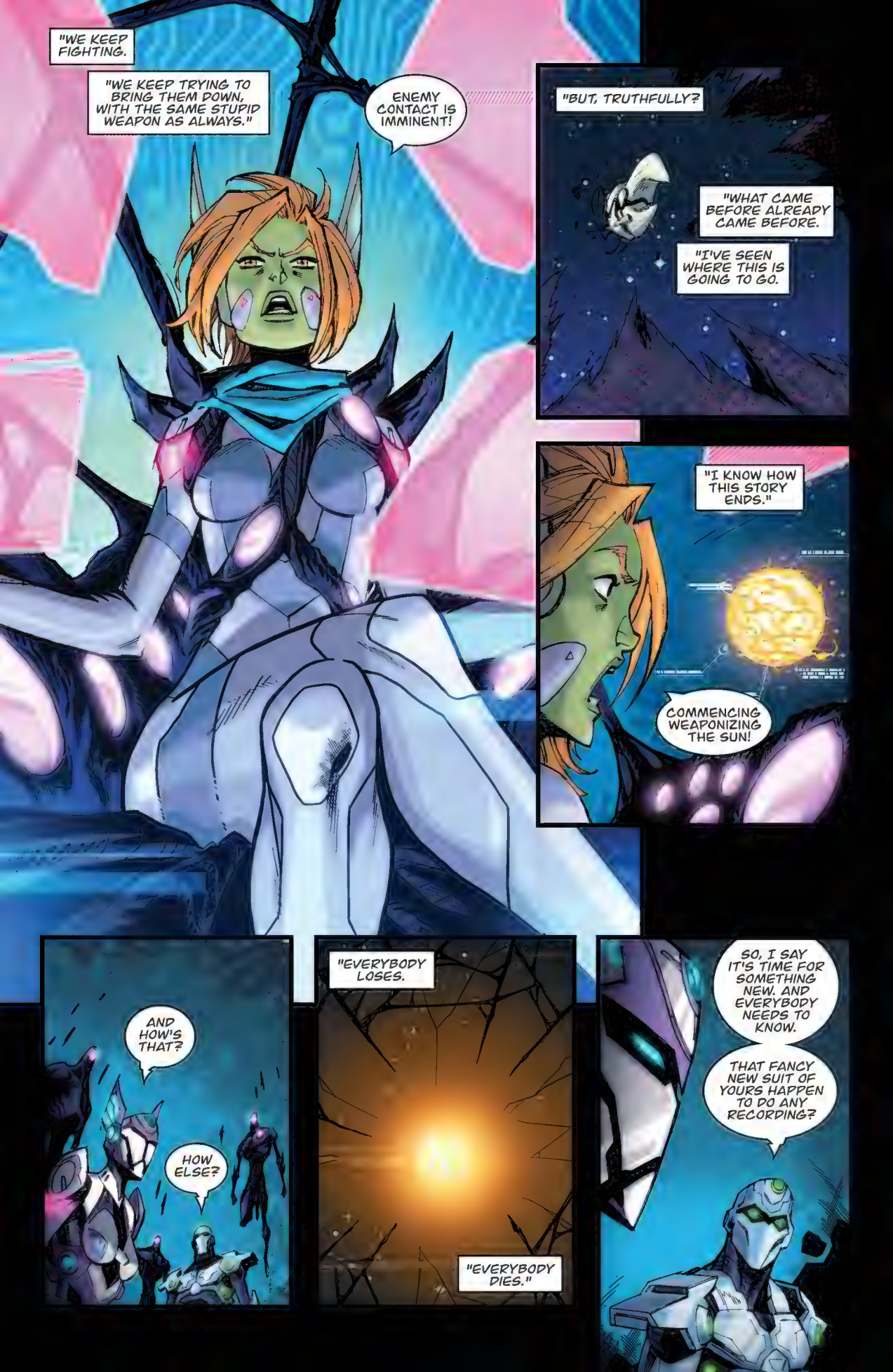
ZACK!
HEY!
ARE YOU WITH ME?
YEAH, LIN.
SORRY.
IT'S ALL A LOT TO TAKE IN, IS ALL.
NO JOKE.
DO WE EVEN HAVE A PLAN BEYOND A BUNCH OF US PUNCHING REALITY'S IMMUNE SYSTEM UNTIL YOU USE OUR SOLAR SYSTEM TO BLOW IT THE HECK UP?
XI?
...
NO.
THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT.
YOU THINK IT'LL WORK?
SOUNDS AS STRATEGICALLY SOUND AS ANYTHING I'VE CONSIDERED.
JUST GOT THE ENTIRE FATE OF EARTH'S GALAXY IN OUR HANDS.
NO BIG DEAL.
I CONCUR WITH ZACHARY.
THIS IS MOST... OVERWHELMING.
WELL, THEN.
I GUESS YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, LIN.
GONNA HAVE TO.


SURE DO!
WAR TIME'S UPON US!
EVERYBODY LOAD UP!
INTO THE CRAZY HUGE CYLINDER THINGS?
EXACTLY!
THE COLOSSAL'S CONSTRUCTS WILL SEND YOU OVER TO THE OUTER EDGE OF SOL!
FROM THERE, ALL YOU'VE GOTTA DO IS KEEP THE ENEMY AT BAY!
EASIER SAID THAN DONE, BUT THIS IS OUR FINAL STAND!
AFTER THIS THERE'S NOTHING LEFT!
IF WE FALL, REALITY FALLS WITH US!
JEEZ.
THE PRESSURE'S CERTAINLY ON, AIN'T IT?
YOU'RE NOT KIDDING.

UH, HEY, XI...
CONSIDERING THIS IS VERY LIKELY THE LAST CHANCE WE'LL BE ABLE TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH ANY OTHER LIVING BEING --
YES?
SORRY I WAS BEING A DICK ABOUT YOU AND LIN EARLIER.
I CAN BE A REAL DILLHOLE.
I'M NOT SURE WHAT "DILLHOLE" TRANSLATES TO, BUT I BELIEVE I UNDERSTAND YOUR MEANING.
EVEN STILL, THERE REMAINS NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE.
I WAS ACTING IN A SIMILARLY REPUGNANT FASHION.
BESIDES, IT'S IRRELEVANT IN THIS MOMENT.
KRIK
YEAH?
YES.
WE ARE COMRADES NOW.
I'M INTO IT.
KRIK



Y'KNOW, ONE OTHER THING.
WHIRPP!
MM?
JUST WHAT LIN SAID EARLIER.
WE CAN'T DO THIS LIKE IT'S ALREADY BEEN DONE.
"TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS AND THE SAME EXACT THING'S BEEN TRIED, SAME WEAPONS BEEN USED AGAINST THE SAME ENEMY -- ALL PLAYED OUT THE SAME WAY OVER AND OVER.
"AND SO FAR, NO ONE'S WINNING."
THE WAY THINGS WERE REMAIN THE WAY THINGS ARE.
AND THEN WHAT?


"WE KEEP FIGHTING.
"WE KEEP TRYING TO BRING THEM DOWN, WITH THE SAME STUPID WEAPON AS ALWAYS."
ENEMY CONTACT IS IMMINENT!
"BUT, TRUTHFULLY?
"WHAT CAME BEFORE ALREADY CAME BEFORE.
"I'VE SEEN WHERE THIS IS GOING TO GO.
"I KNOW HOW THIS STORY ENDS."
COMMENCING WEAPONIZING THE SUN!
AND HOW'S THAT?
HOW ELSE?
"EVERYBODY LOSES.
"EVERYBODY DIES."
SO, I SAY IT'S TIME FOR SOMETHING NEW. AND EVERYBODY NEEDS TO KNOW.
THAT FANCY NEW SUIT OF YOURS HAPPEN TO DO ANY RECORDING?

THIS LOOKS PROMISING.
...HUH.
WELL, THEN.
I'LL TAKE IT.

YOU RECORDING?
DO I LOOK COOL?
I AM RECORDING, BUT I ADVISE YOU DON'T WORRY ABOUT APPEARANCES AND HURRY UP.
OKAY, YEAH.
UM. HI. YES.
MY NAME IS TECH JACKET.
I AM GALACTIC GUARDIAN OF -- THE UH, MILKY WAY?
YOU MIGHT CALL IT SOMETHING ELSE?
PROBABLY DO, YEAH.
ANYWAY, IF YOU'RE SEEING THIS, OUR GALAXY HAS COME UNDER SIEGE FROM AN ENEMY BEYOND OUR UNDERSTANDING.
COUNTLESS PLANETS HAVE ALREADY FACED EXTINCTION BY WHAT APPEARS TO BE OUR OWN UNIVERSE'S IMMUNE SYSTEM.
THERE ARE SO MANY DEAD! THEY THINK THERE'S NO CHANCE TO END THIS THING! IT SHOWS NO MERCY!
THROOM!
GELDARIA HAS FALLEN IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO STOP IT, CREATING A SUPER WEAPON WHICH PROMISES TO FIGHT BACK USING YOUR OWN SOLAR SYSTEM.
AND YET THE FINAL FATE OF EARTH IS UNKNOWN!
WAIT, WAIT. PAUSE IT.
I FEEL SO FREAKING STUPID.
I'M NO GOOD AT SPEECHES, TOTALLY NOT THE "ROUSE THE TROOPS" TYPE.
GO, GO, GO.

OKAY, AH -- YEAH. WHERE WAS I?
YOU'VE GOTTA ABANDON WHAT YOU KNOW! WHAT YOU'RE TOLD TO DO! WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS DONE!
ABANDON WHAT'S COME BEFORE! HECK, ABANDON THIS WEAPON, SHOULD IT COME TO YOUR AID!
YOU CAN'T BEAT THIS THING WITH THE SAME OLD WAY OF DOING THINGS!
WHAT YOU KNOW -- IT'S JUST NOT GOING TO WORK!
SHOULD YOU HAVE THE MEANS, ABANDON YOUR REALITY!
AW, SCREW IT. THIS ISN'T GOING TO MAKE ANY DAMN SENSE.
WE CAN LAUNCH THAT STUPID WARNING BEACON INTO THE OUTER DEPTHS AND HOPE THAT DOES ANYONE ANY GOOD.
I COULD TRY TO RECORD AGAIN, BUT THAT SOUND MEANS WE'RE OUT OF TIME.
OH, WHAT GOOD WOULD IT DO?

TECH JACKET!!!
I'M FINE, KIND OF!
THESE BUGS CAN SURE TEAR INTO A GUY!
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHY THE HECK IS REALITY'S IMMUNE SYSTEM A BUNCH OF STUPID BUGS?!
RAWR!
I DO NOT BELIEVE WE'LL RECEIVE AN ANSWER THIS DAY.
FAIR POINT.
I'M NOT EXPECTING THESE GUYS TO SIT DOWN FOR A CHAT.

YOU KEEP TALKING ABOUT DOING SOMETHING NEW, SOMETHING WHICH HASN'T BEEN DONE BEFORE!
RAWR!
BUT ISN'T THIS WHAT WE'VE ALREADY DISCUSSED? WHAT HAPPENED ON GELDARIA?!
DEFENDING A WEAPON NOT POWERFUL ENOUGH TO STOP THEM?!
I'M NOT SURE WHAT "AN ACE" MEANS, BUT IF YOU'VE GOT ANYTHING USEFUL HIDDEN IN YOUR CLOTHING, NOW MIGHT BE THE TIME TO PULL IT OUT!
FAIR ENOUGH!
YEAH, BUT THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE HERE!
I'VE GOT AN ACE UP MY SLEEVE!

STANLEY, YOU READY?!
ABSOLUTELY!
EVERYONE'S UPGRADED AND GO FOR LAUNCH!
FOOM!!
WHO -- ?!
DON'T SWEAT IT, XI.
THEY'RE WITH ME.
THEY'RE THE TECH JACKET CORPS.

LIN, HOOK ME UP WITH THE COLOSSAL!
I NEED YOU TO COMMAND THEM TO FOLLOW MY LEAD!
ZACK, I DON'T KNOW IF --
I'M LISTENING.
LOOK, I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE ME, AND I DON'T LIKE YOU, BUT EVERYBODY -- ME INCLUDED -- KEEPS YAPPING NONSTOP ABOUT HOW WHAT WENT BEFORE ISN'T GONNA WORK OUT.
...AND?
BUT MAYBE WE COULD COMBINE THE PAST WITH THE PRESENT AND BUILD A CHANCE AT A FUTURE.
GO ON.
WE'VE GOT THREE OF THE OTHER GREATEST WEAPONS GELDARIA EVER BUILT BETWEEN LIN, XI, AND ME.
AND I JUST BROUGHT A MASSIVE ROBOT ARMY, WHICH CAN TRANSFORM INTO ONE BIG-ASS ROBOT.
I'M THINKING WE TAKE YOU AS OUR CORE, STILL PILOTED BY LIN.
SYNC UP ALL MY ROBOTS WITH ALL YOUR SOLDIERS.
AND USE BOTH XI AND ME AS YOUR WEAPONEERS.
WHICH WOULD RESULT IN...?
A TECH JACKET.
ONE BIG-ASS TECH JACKET.
SOUND DOABLE?

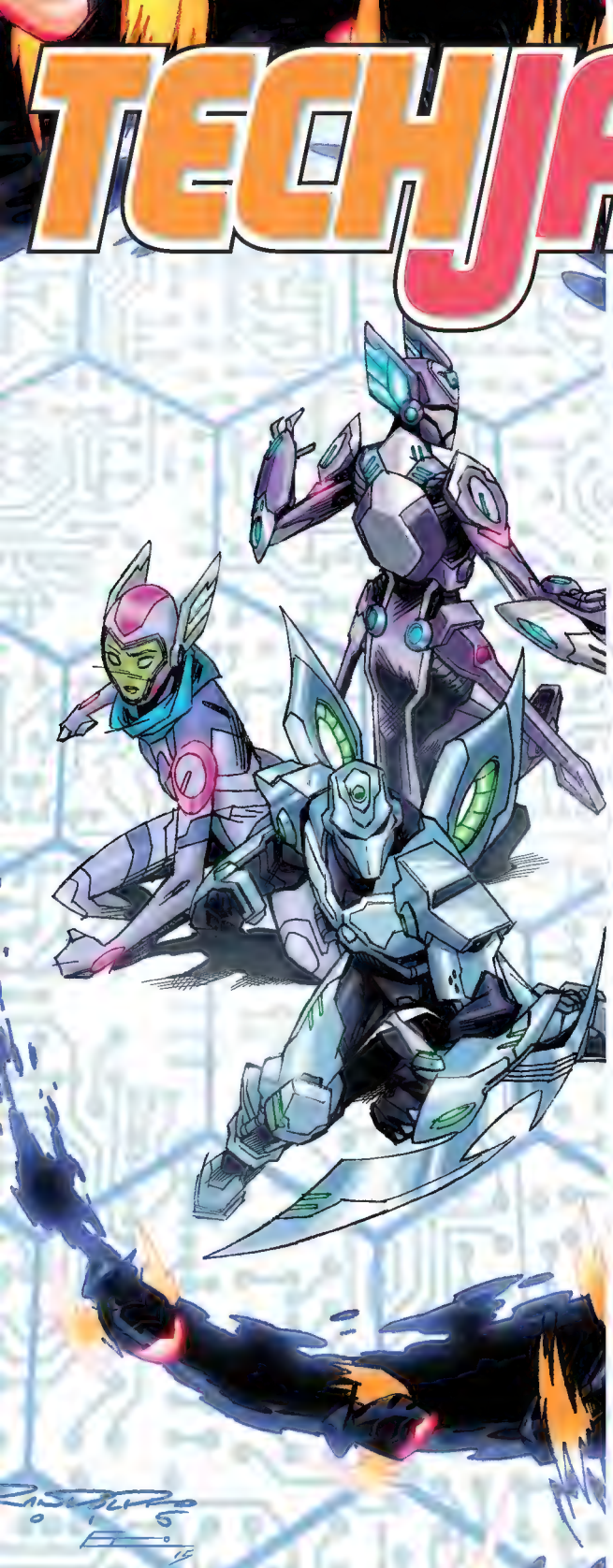
WHIRPP!
YOU!!!
OH, NO.

YOU LEFT ME TO DIE!
THRAMM!
ON YOUR DAMNED SUN!
ZACHARY!
THRAMM!
THRAMM!
I PROMISED I'D TEAR THE UNIVERSE APART TO FIND YOU!
BUT HERE I AM, SUMMONED BY FORCES UNKNOWN!
BRAKKA!
SUMMONED FOR A CAUSE I SHARE NO DESIRE TO FIGHT FOR.
ALL THAT MATTERS IS YOU AND ME, TECH JACKET.
ALL THAT MATTERS IS DOING WHAT I SHOULD'VE DONE TO YOU BEFORE.
WITH NO CLIENT NEEDING YOU IN ONE PIECE.
KRAKKA-THRAMM!
ONLY ONE ACT REMAINS.

SPLURRRCH!!

JOE KEATINGE • JHARY RANDOLPH • EMILIO LOPEZ
image
SKYBOUND
11
TECHJACKET
™

TECH JACKET™



JOE KEATINGE
writer

KHARY RANDOLPH
artist

EMILIO LOPEZ
colorist

RUS WOOTON
letterer

KHARY RANDOLPH
EMILIO LOPEZ
Cover

ARIELLE BASICH
assistant editor

SEAN MACKIEWICZ
editor

Created by
ROBERT KIRKMAN & E.J. SU

IMAGE COMICS, INC.
Robert Kirkman – Chief Operating Officer
Erik Larsen – Chief Financial Officer
Todd McFarlane – President
Marc Silvestri – Chief Executive Officer
Jim Valentino – Vice-President
Eric Stephenson – Publisher
Corey Murphy – Director of Sales
Jeremy Sullivan – Director of Digital Sales
Kat Salazar – Director of PR & Marketing
Emily Miller – Director of Operations
Branwyn Bigglestone – Senior Accounts Manager
Sarah Mello – Accounts Manager
Drew Gill – Art Director
Jonathan Chan – Production Manager
Meredith Wallace – Print Manager
Randy Okamura – Marketing Production Designer
David Brothers – Branding Manager
Ally Power – Content Manager
Addison Duke – Production Artist
Vincent Kukua – Production Artist
Sasha Head – Production Artist
Tricia Ramos – Production Artist
Emilio Bautista – Digital Sales Associate
Chloe Ramos-Peterson – Administrative Assistant
IMAGECOMICS.COM

SKYBOUND
For SKYBOUND ENTERTAINMENT
Robert Kirkman CEO
David Alpert President
Sean Mackiewicz Editorial Director
Shawn Kirkham Director of Business Development
Brian Huntington Online Editorial Director
June Allan Publicity Director
Rachel Skidmore Director of Media Development
Arielle Basich Assistant Editor
Dan Petersen Operations Manager
Sarah Effinger Office Manager
Nick Palmer Operations Coordinator
Genevieve Jones Production Coordinator
Andres Juarez Graphic Designer
Stephan Murillo Administrative Assistant
International inquiries: foreign@skybound.com
Licensing inquiries: contact@skybound.com
WWW.SKYBOUND.COM

TECH JACKET #11. September 2015. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2001 Center Street, Sixth Floor, Berkeley, California 94704. Copyright © 2015 Robert Kirkman, LLC and E.J. Su. All rights reserved. TECH JACKET™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® is a trademark of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. DIGITAL EDITION.

SO, YOU TELL ME...
...DO YOU THINK WE'RE ALONE, ZACK?
I DUNNO YET, BUT WE CAN SURE FIND OUT NOW!
I CAN SEE PRETTY MUCH ALL OF SPACE!
THIS IS THE GREATEST DAY OF MY LIFE!
HEH.
ALL OF SPACE, HUH?
THAT'S A LOT OF SPACE.
THE BEST PART?
YOU TOTALLY MADE IT HAPPEN, BUD.
ANYONE COULD BUY SOMEONE ELSE'S TELESCOPE.
BUT YOU MADE YOUR OWN.
I DIDN'T MAKE ANYTHING, DAD.
WE DID.
WE MADE IT TOGETHER.
THIS IS OURS.
WELL, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.
JUST NEVER FORGET WHAT YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED HERE, OKAY?
DON'T TAKE AWAY THAT THIS THING DIDN'T EXIST. YOU WANTED IT TO, YOU HELPED PUT IT TOGETHER, AND NOW IT'S HERE.
PLUS, THIS KINDA ANSWERS OUR QUESTION, HUH?
WE'RE DEFINITELY NOT ALONE.

WHOA!
poit.
ZACK!
KRSSH!
NO.
NO, NO, NO.
I --
SHH.
IT'S OKAY.
IT'S OKAY, BUDDY.

"THERE WAS A TIME BEFORE OUR TELESCOPE EXISTED, REMEMBER?
"AND SURE, IT TOOK A WHILE TO GET IT TOGETHER.
"BUT WE DID IT ONCE.
"WE CAN DO IT AGAIN.
"AND THIS TIME?
"WE'LL DO EVEN BETTER, BUDDY. YOU'LL SEE.
"WITH YOU AND ME TOGETHER, WE DON'T GIVE UP."
WE REBUILD.
WHY WON'T YOU DIE, DAMN IT?!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU HAVE A CHANCE HERE?!
T-T...
TURN AROUND, ASSHOLE.

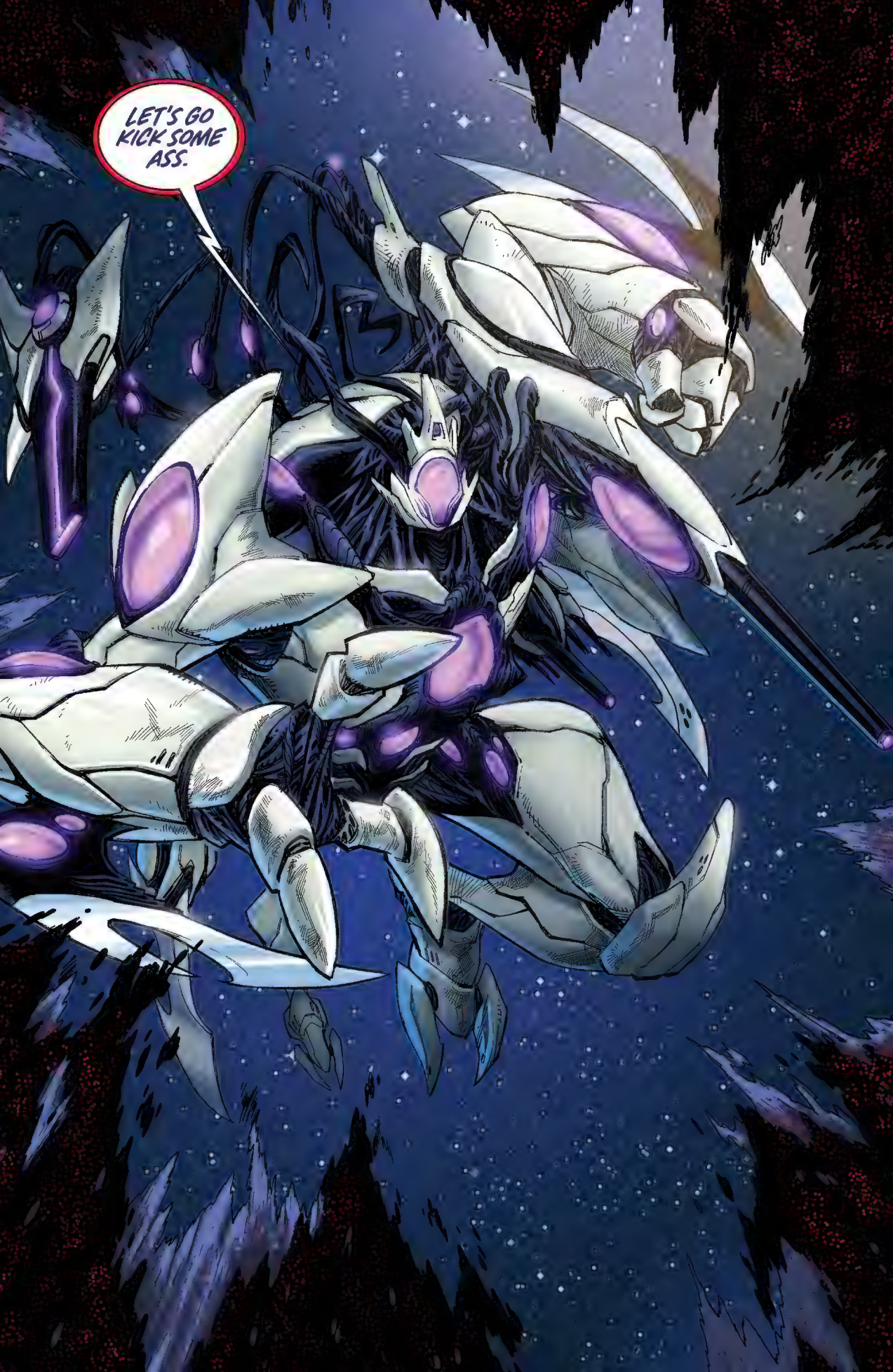
I'M NOT ALONE.

"MR. THOMPSON?"
YOUR WIFE --
LYNN.
ARE THEY...?
I MEAN, I WON'T LIE, IT WAS TOUCH AND GO THERE FOR A WHILE.
THEY'RE OKAY. GREAT, EVEN.
THEY'LL DEFINITELY NEED A LOT OF TIME TO RECOVER.
"BUT THEY WOULDN'T GIVE UP."
THAT'S MY LYNN, ALL RIGHT.
OH, IT'S YOUR BOY, TOO.
YOU'VE GOT ONE STRONG FAMILY, SIR.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, IT'S TIME, IF YOU'RE READY.
YOU KIDDING?
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO READY FOR ANYTHING, DOC.
WELL, THEN...
"...LET'S GO MEET YOUR SON."

"HOLY COW, KIDDO.
"LOOK AT YOU."
WE MADE OURSELVES A LITTLE DUDE, LYNN!
A LITTLE ZACK!
OH, BELIEVE ME, ED.
I'M AWARE.
WE HAD A ROUGH TIME GETTING HERE, DIDN'T WE, LITTLE GUY?
BUT YOU DID IT.
"YOU HELD ON.
"BOTH OF YOU."
DAY ONE AND YOU'RE ALREADY ACCOMPLISHING GREAT THINGS.
FIGHTING HARD RIGHT OUT THE GATE.
"WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE YOU'RE CAPABLE OF?"

ZACHARY? ARE YOU WITH US?
BARELY.
VERY WELL.
"BARELY" WILL SUFFICE. PREPARE FOR INTEGRATION.
I-INTEGRATION?
I'VE FOUND YOUR PLAN A SUITABLE ONE. BUT I REQUIRE YOUR ASSISTANCE.
YEAH?
BUT YOU ALREADY SEEM TO MAKE ONE KILLER "BIG ASS TECH JACKET."
IT'S NOT ME. NOT ANYMORE.
IT'S US.

FROM NOW ON I WILL ONLY ALLOW US TO FUNCTION AS A WHOLE, OPERATING MY SOLDIERS AND YOUR ROBOTS AS ONE BODY.
PRINCESS LIN COMMANDS OUR AUXILIARY WEAPONRY, CHARGED BY YOUR SUN.
XI CONTROLS OUR COMBAT, OUR LIMBS IMITATING HER EVERY ATTACK.
AND ME?
YOU SHALL BE OUR NAVIGATOR. GUIDE OUR COURSE. SHOW US WHERE TO FIGHT ON.
YOU'RE TAKING ON SOMETHING LARGER THAN YOU'VE EVER KNOWN. BECOMING PART OF A WHOLE GREATER THAN YOUR SPECIES' MIND WAS MADE FOR.
I CANNOT PROMISE YOUR SURVIVAL.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I GOT THIS.
"ENDURING'S WHAT I DO.
"WHAT I'VE ALWAYS DONE."


LET'S GO KICK SOME ASS.

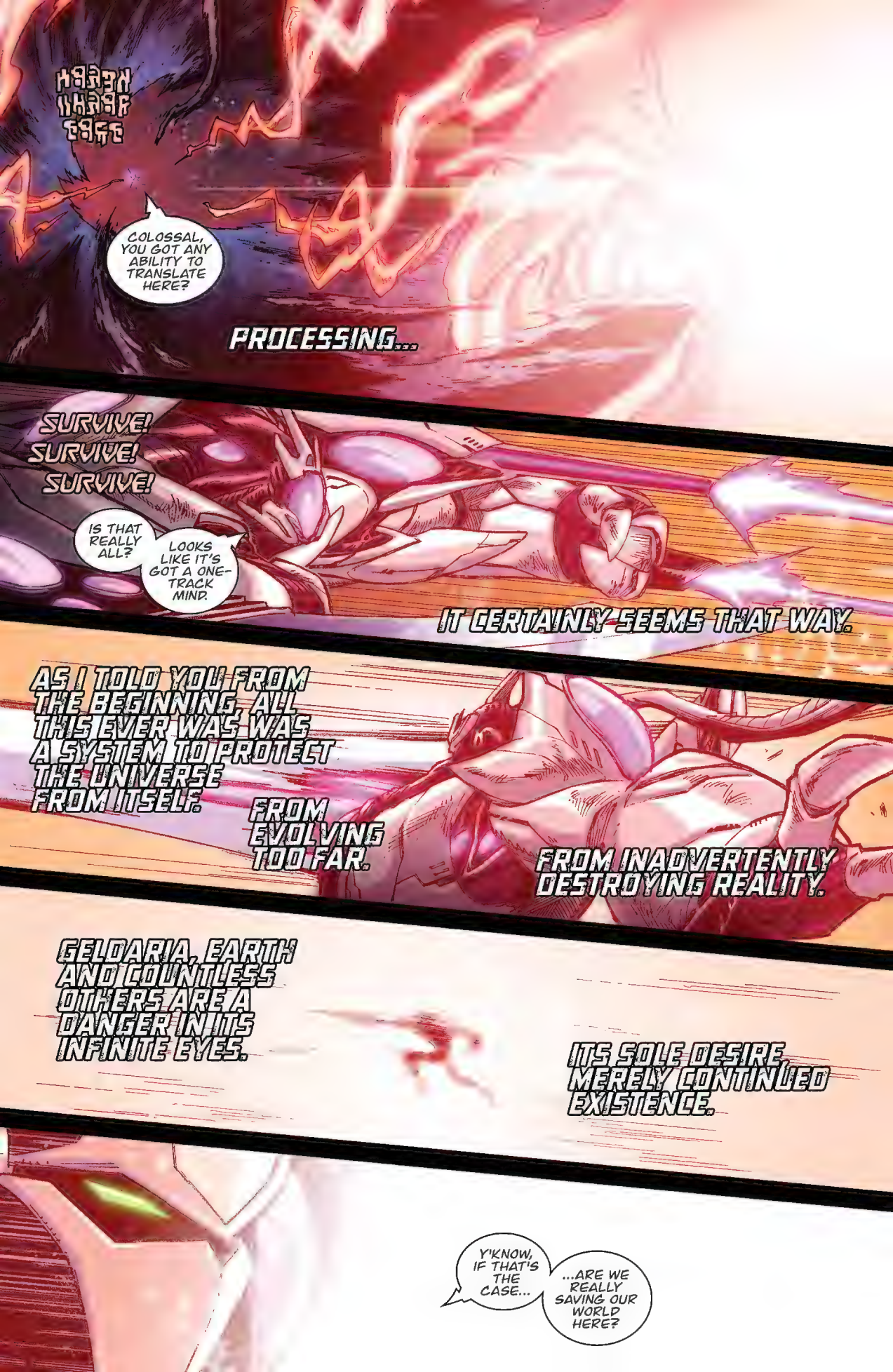
IT IS A PLEASURE FOR YOU TO REJOIN US, ZACHARY.
I AM HONORED TO FIGHT AT YOUR SIDE.
PLEASURE'S ALL MINE, XI.
I'M FEELING GOOD KNOWING YOU'RE THE ONE THROWING PUNCHES.
IT'S AMAZING TO BEHOLD.
"AND BELIEVE ME...
WHAT THE HECK?
"...I'VE BEHELD SOME AMAZING STUFF.
"I CAN'T SAY NONE OF THIS SCARES ME. BECAUSE IT DOES.
SUUU-!
"AND IT SHOULD.
"BUT IF EVERYTHING I'VE EXPERIENCED AS BOTH TECH JACKET OR PLAIN OLD ZACK THOMPSON HAS TAUGHT ME ANYTHING...

"SCARY CAN BE GOOD.
WHAT THE -- ?
"'SCARY' CAN FORCE YOU TO BECOME MORE THAN YOU WERE.
"THAN YOU EVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE.
"TAKING YOU TO PLACES YOU'D NEVER GO.
WHO IS THAT GIRL UP THERE?
"INTRODUCING YOU TO PEOPLE YOU'D NEVER MEET.
"I'VE BECOME WHO I AM TODAY BY TAKING 'SCARY' HEAD ON.
GO! RUN!
I'LL PROTECT YOU!

"'SCARY'S' BROUGHT ME GREAT THINGS.
"I'M BETTING YOU CAN CONCUR."
INDEED.

UM.
OUR FIST'S SMASHING INTO... SOMETHING.
WE'VE MADE CONTACT.
ANY IDEA WHAT WE'RE LOOKING AT?
EVERYTHING COMES FROM SOMEWHERE, PRINCESS.
EVEN THE END.

ZACHARY?
HOW DO YOU WISH TO APPROACH?
ONLY ONE WAY TO DO THIS, BUDDY.
WE TAKE IT HEAD ON.
TIME TO GIVE IT EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT!
XI!
LIN!
WE'RE BOOKING IT STRAIGHT INTO HELL!


COLOSSAL, YOU GOT ANY ABILITY TO TRANSLATE HERE?
PROCESSING...
SURVIVE! SURVIVE! SURVIVE!
IS THAT REALLY ALL?
LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOT A ONE-TRACK MIND.
IT CERTAINLY SEEMS THAT WAY.
AS I TOLD YOU FROM THE BEGINNING, ALL THIS EVER WAS, WAS A SYSTEM TO PROTECT THE UNIVERSE FROM ITSELF.
FROM EVOLVING TOO FAR.
FROM INADVERTENTLY DESTROYING REALITY.
GELDARIA, EARTH AND COUNTLESS OTHERS ARE A DANGER IN ITS INFINITE EYES.
ITS SOLE DESIRE, MERELY CONTINUED EXISTENCE.
Y'KNOW, IF THAT'S THE CASE...
...ARE WE REALLY SAVING OUR WORLD HERE?

"OR ARE WE DAMNING IT?"
IT APPEARS OUR TIME TOGETHER IS AT ITS PENULTIMATE POINT, NICHOLAS.
THEY'VE DONE EXACTLY AS I'VE FORESEEN.
THE DAY IS LOOKING JUST ABOUT WON.
EXCUSE ME?
YOU GIFTED MY FREEDOM ONLY ON THE CHANCE I COULD OVERCOME YOU, GROW TO BE MORE THAN MY CREATOR.
IT TOOK TIME, BUT I DID.
I BECAME YOUR KING, YOUR COMMANDER.
MOVED YOUR PIECES AROUND TO GET ME TO MY NEXT LEVEL.
TO EVOLVE EVEN FURTHER BEYOND ALL YOU KNOW.
"YET TO BECOME GREATER THAN I AM NOW REQUIRES SOMETHING THIS WORLD CAN NEVER GIVE ME.
"IT'S TIME I MOVE BEYOND ANYTHING THE EARTH HAS EVER SEEN."
WHAT THE DEVIL ARE YOU SAYING HERE, STANLEY?
I'M SAYING GOODBYE, NICHOLAS.
BUT, TRULY, MORE THAN ANYTHING...
...THANK YOU FOR THIS LIFE.

UPLOAD ME.
AS YOU COMMAND.
AS YOU COMMAND.
AS YOU COMMAND.
UH, I DIDN'T QUITE CATCH THAT.
EVERYTHING GOING OKAY?

SOMETHING'S DEFINITELY WRONG, ZACK.
MY CONTROLS ARE DEAD.
I CAN CONFIRM THE SAME ON MY END.
IT'S LIKE THE COLOSSAL HAS BROKEN COMMUNICATION.
WILL BE FINE.
WAIT A SECOND.
THAT LAST BIT.
I RECOGNIZE THAT VOICE.
STANLEY...?
IS THAT YOU...?
YES, ZACK.
IT'S ME.

I'M IN CONTROL NOW.

JOE KEATINGE • KHARY RANDOLPH • EMILIO LOPEZ
image
SKYBOUND
12
TECHJACKET
™

ONE YEAR LATER

THEN YOU NEED TECH JACKET AND THE GALACTIC GUARDIANS AT YOUR SIDE!
DON'T WORRY, EARTH! I'M COMING TO SAVE YOU!
BUT GET READY TO FACE SOME OF THE UNIVERSE'S MOST DREADED VILLAINS!
NOT IF THE COLOSSAL HAS ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT!
THIS PLANET IS MINE!
DON'T WORRY, TECH JACKET! THE GALACTIC GUARDIANS ARE HERE TO HELP!
THE UNITED NATIONS' ELITE SPACE SPECIAL FORCES ARE YOURS TO COMMAND!
GO BACK TO OUTER SPACE, YA BIG MEANY!
OUTER SPACE WON'T BE SAFE FOR LONG!
I'LL GET YOU NEXT TIME, GALACTIC GUARDIANS!
WILL YOU SAVE THE DAY?
TECH JACKET AND THE GALACTIC GUARDIANS!
ACTION FIGURES EACH SOLD SEPARATELY.

FROM CROWE TOYS!

BWAP.

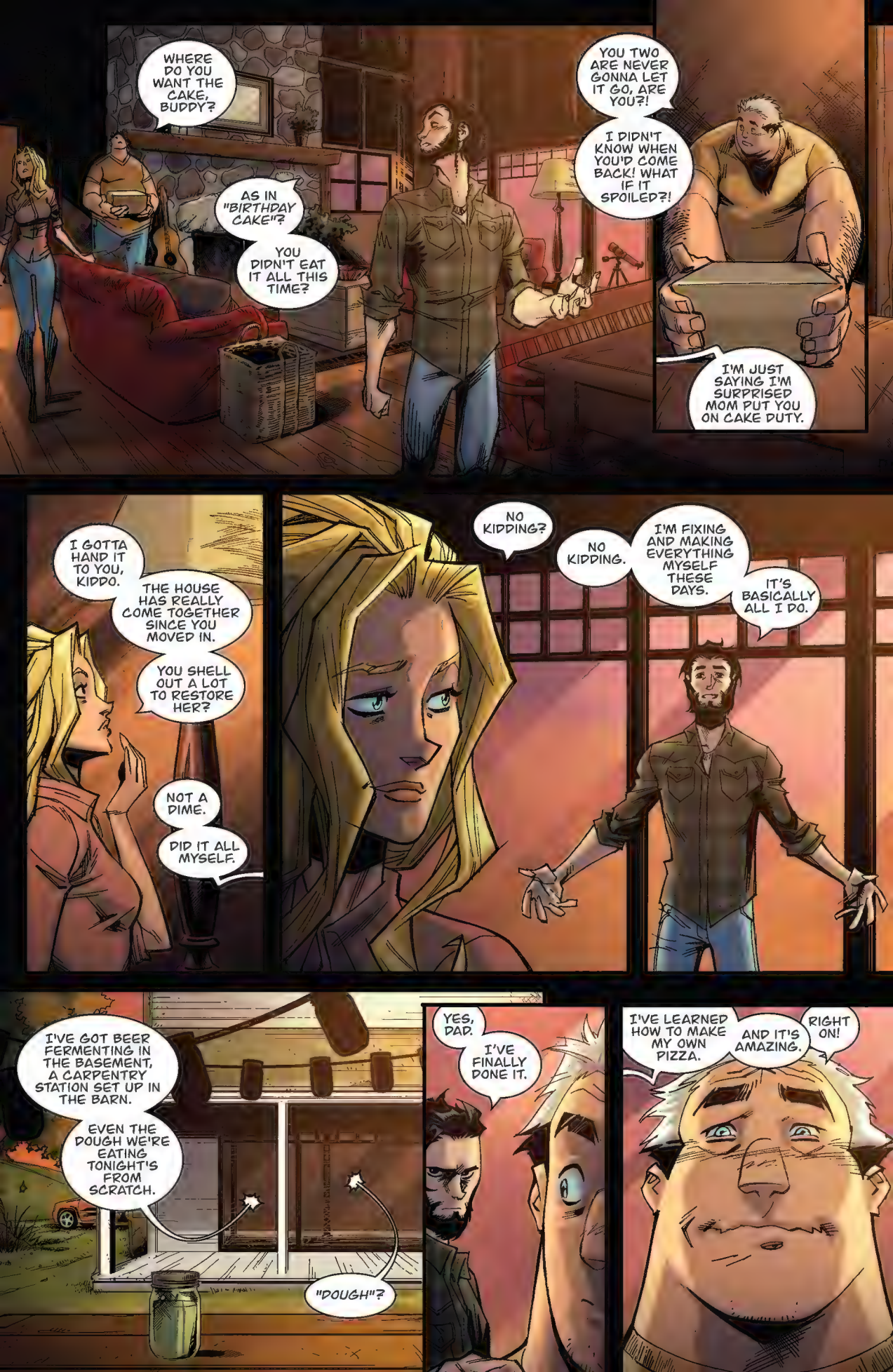
cheetcheetchit.
cheetcheetchit.

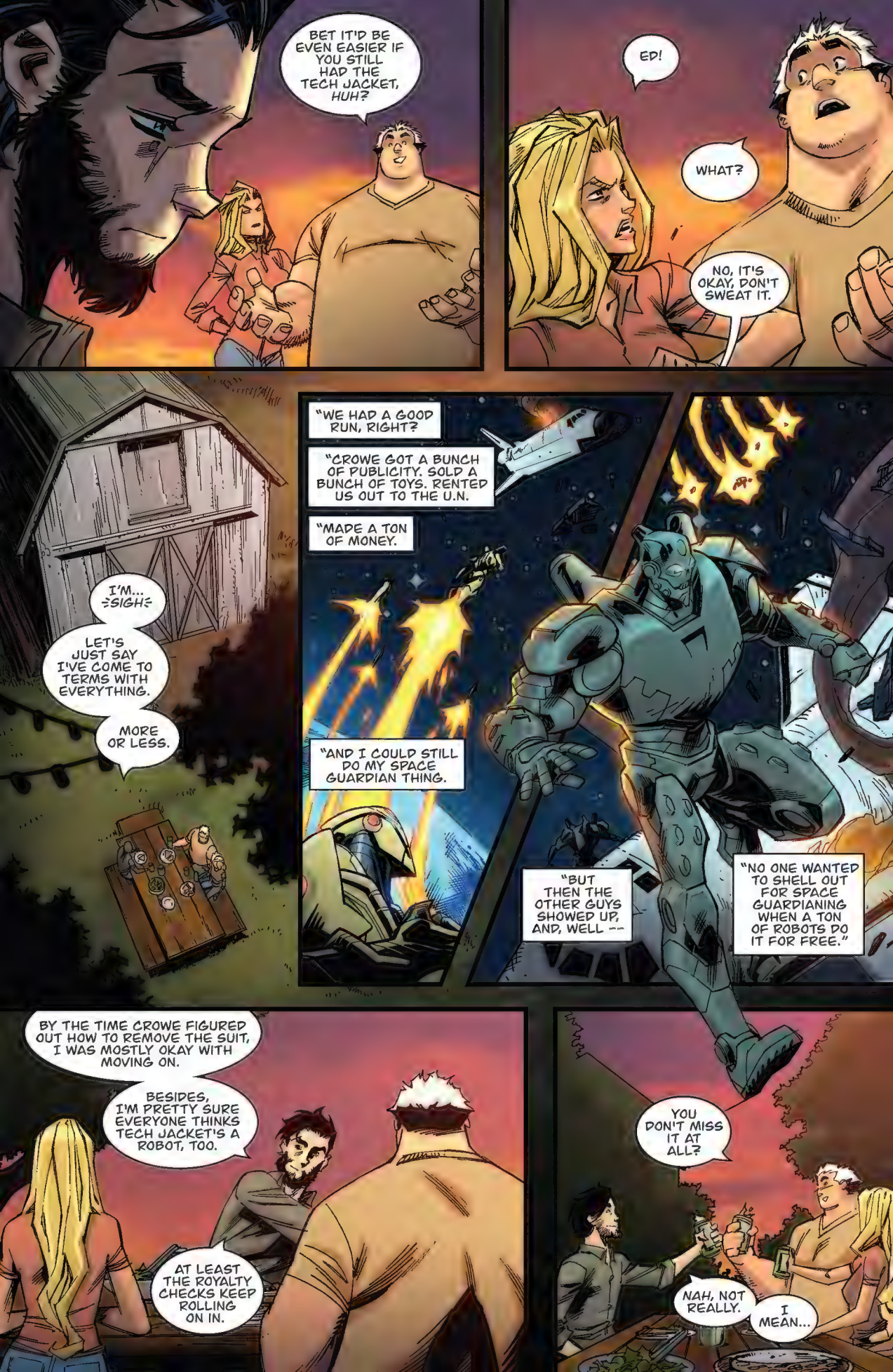
BWAP.
BWAP.

RAFF!
RAFF!
RAFF!

ALLEN!
C'MON!
BE NICE!

YOU GOTTA TREAT FAMILY RIGHT.
DUDE!
YOU GREW A BEARD!
AGAIN!
NOT BAD, HUH?
NOT BAD AT ALL, ZACK!
I ACTUALLY APPROVE THIS TIME.
THE LAST ONE WAS A DISASTER.
THANKS, MOM.


WHERE DO YOU WANT THE CAKE, BUDDY?
AS IN "BIRTHDAY CAKE"?
YOU DIDN'T EAT IT ALL THIS TIME?
YOU TWO ARE NEVER GONNA LET IT GO, ARE YOU?!
I DIDN'T KNOW WHEN YOU'D COME BACK! WHAT IF IT SPOILED?!
I'M JUST SAYING I'M SURPRISED MOM PUT YOU ON CAKE DUTY.
I GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU, KIDDO.
THE HOUSE HAS REALLY COME TOGETHER SINCE YOU MOVED IN.
YOU SHELL OUT A LOT TO RESTORE HER?
NOT A DIME.
DID IT ALL MYSELF.
NO KIDDING?
NO KIDDING.
I'M FIXING AND MAKING EVERYTHING MYSELF THESE DAYS.
IT'S BASICALLY ALL I DO.
I'VE GOT BEER FERMENTING IN THE BASEMENT, A CARPENTRY STATION SET UP IN THE BARN.
EVEN THE DOUGH WE'RE EATING TONIGHT'S FROM SCRATCH.
"DOUGH"?
YES, DAD.
I'VE FINALLY DONE IT.
I'VE LEARNED HOW TO MAKE MY OWN PIZZA.
AND IT'S AMAZING.
RIGHT ON!


BET IT'D BE EVEN EASIER IF YOU STILL HAD THE TECH JACKET, HUH?
ED!
WHAT?
NO, IT'S OKAY, DON'T SWEAT IT.
I'M... =SIGH=
LET'S JUST SAY I'VE COME TO TERMS WITH EVERYTHING.
MORE OR LESS.
"WE HAD A GOOD RUN, RIGHT?
"CROWE GOT A BUNCH OF PUBLICITY. SOLD A BUNCH OF TOYS. RENTED US OUT TO THE U.N.
"MADE A TON OF MONEY.
"AND I COULD STILL DO MY SPACE GUARDIAN THING.
"BUT THEN THE OTHER GUYS SHOWED UP, AND, WELL --
"NO ONE WANTED TO SHELL OUT FOR SPACE GUARDIANING WHEN A TON OF ROBOTS DO IT FOR FREE."
BY THE TIME CROWE FIGURED OUT HOW TO REMOVE THE SUIT, I WAS MOSTLY OKAY WITH MOVING ON.
BESIDES, I'M PRETTY SURE EVERYONE THINKS TECH JACKET'S A ROBOT, TOO.
AT LEAST THE ROYALTY CHECKS KEEP ROLLING ON IN.
YOU DON'T MISS IT AT ALL?
NAH, NOT REALLY.
I MEAN...

"...EVERYTHING'S GOTTA END SOMETIME."
WAIT.
HOLD THE PHONE, STANLEY.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE IN CONTROL OF THE COLOSSAL?
...HELLO?
SERIOUSLY, DUDE!
YOU'RE FREAKING ME OUT HERE!
MY GIRLFRIEND, HER GIRLFRIEND, AND I ARE STILL INSIDE YOU!
UM.
PROBABLY COULD'VE USED A LESS AWKWARD PHRASING THAN "INSIDE YOU".
BUT STILL--!
LIN, XI, EITHER OF YOU STILL READ ME?
I'M GONNA HEAD UP TOP, SEE IF I CAN GET ANY RESPONSE.
IT'S LOOKING LIKE WE'VE BEEN SHANGHAIED.

TURN AROUND, FELLA.
WE'RE IN WHATEVER THIS IS TOGETHER.
ALL THREE OF US.
BAD ASS!
THIS "STANLEY" A FRIEND OF YOURS?
NOT EXACTLY.
HE'S CROWE'S LACKEY, FROM WHAT I GATHERED.
BUT IT'S SEEMING LIKE HE'S IN BUSINESS FOR HIMSELF NOW.
WHAT'S THE PLAN?
HEH.
"PLAN"?
SINCE WHEN DO I USE "PLANS"?
I GOTTA ADMIT, WHEN IT COMES TO ROBOT-POSSESSED-ANCIENT-WEAPONS-TURNED-DEMIGODS?
DUDE, I'M TOTALLY WINGING IT.

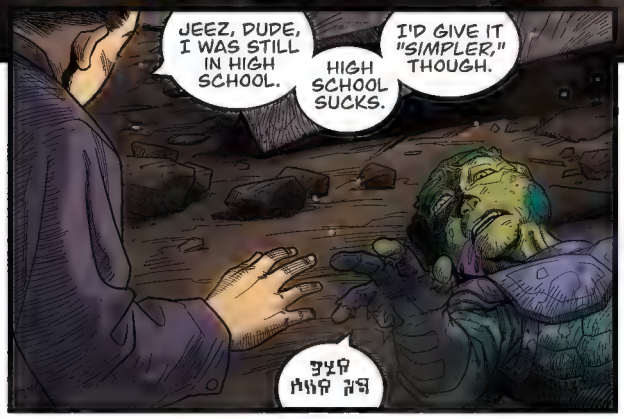
CERTAINLY.

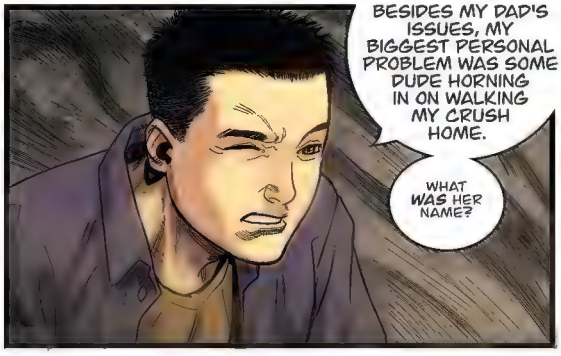
MAYBE SOMETHING A BIT MORE FAMILIAR?

WHAT THE HECK?
I'VE DONE THIS ALL THE TIME ON MY OWN, WHENEVER A SITUATION'S MORE THAN I CAN HANDLE.
A QUICK MENTAL JAUNT TO A CALMER PAST TO PROCESS A HECTIC PRESENT.
BUT I SUPPOSE I HAVE AN ADVANTAGE.
EVERY EXPERIENCE I'VE HAD GOES BEYOND MERE MEMORY.
THE ADVANTAGES OF A BRAIN BUILT ACROSS TERABYTES.
...STANLEY?
DID WE -- TIME TRAVEL?
CHOOM!!
HA. NO.
I DON'T BELIEVE MY NEW FORM IS THAT TALENTED.
WE'LL SEE.
I THOUGHT I'D HELP EVERYONE CONNECTED ACCESS A MORE PLEASANT TIME.
TAKE A BREATHER, IF YOU WILL.
YOU MIGHT CALL IT ONE'S "HAPPY PLACE".
OH...
OH!
THIS IS BACK THEN BACK THEN.
BACK WHEN KELDA CRASHED DOWN.

BACK WHEN I FOUND THE TECH JACKET.
WAS IT EASIER THEN?

BEFORE --
WELL, YOU BECAME YOU?
"EASIER"?
MAN, I DUNNO.

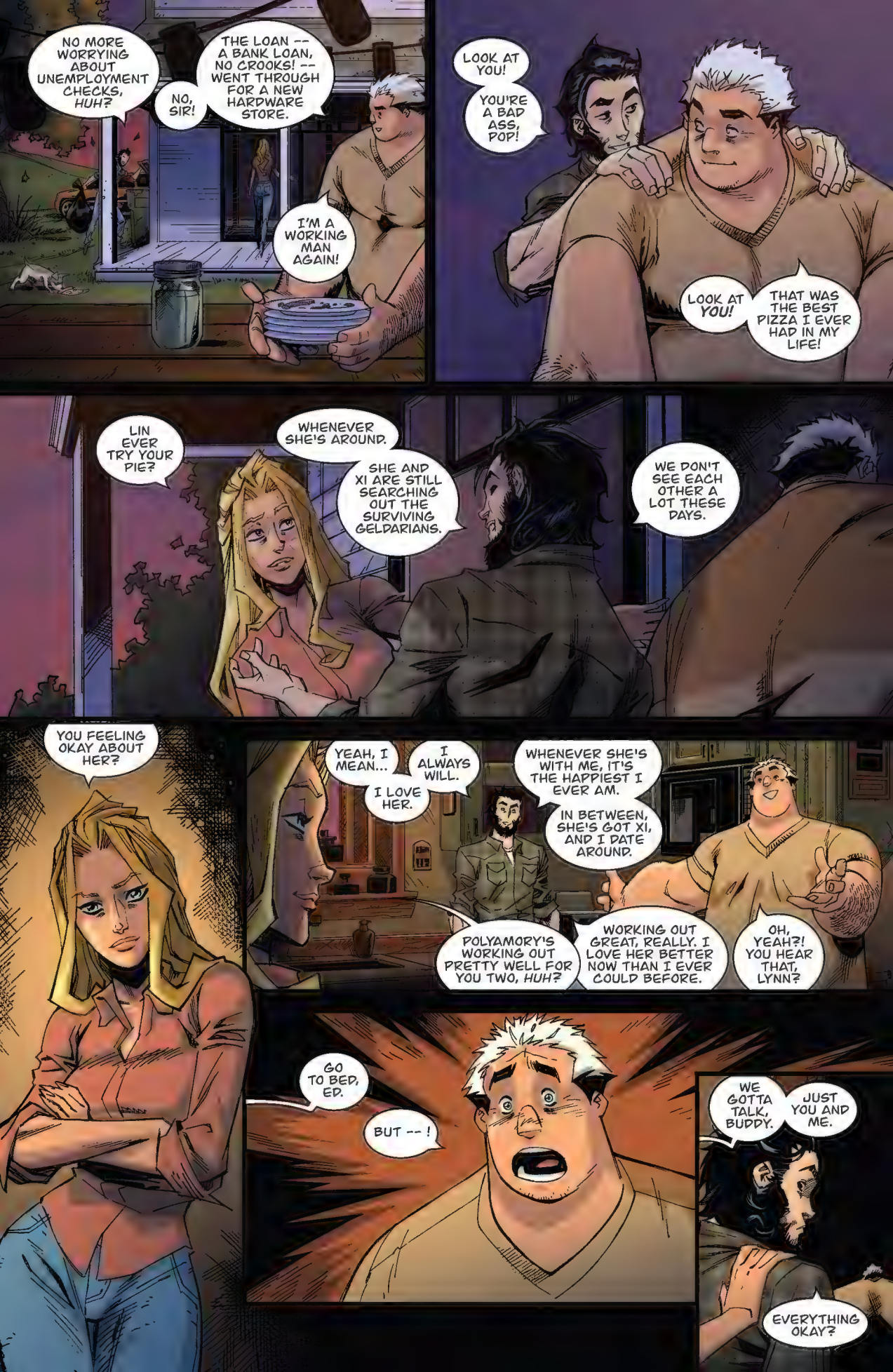

JEEZ, DUDE, I WAS STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL.
HIGH SCHOOL SUCKS.
I'D GIVE IT "SIMPLER," THOUGH.


BESIDES MY DAD'S ISSUES, MY BIGGEST PERSONAL PROBLEM WAS SOME DUDE HORNING IN ON WALKING MY CRUSH HOME.
WHAT WAS HER NAME?

YOU KNOW, CROWE'S ON THE VERGE OF FIGURING OUT HOW TO REMOVE... THAT.
YOU COULD GO BACK TO "SIMPLER".
NO JOKE, HUH?

REBECCA?
HOLY CRAP, YEAH!
REBECCA!
MAN, I WONDER WHATEVER HAPPENED TO HER.

THIS MEAN YOU'RE GIVING US A RIDE HOME?
I'VE NO INTEREST IN KEEPING ANY REMAINING SENTIENT ASPECT OF THE COLOSSAL AGAINST ITS WILL.
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN SUBJUGATION, JUST EXPLORATION.
EVERYTHING I'VE EVER DONE, EVERYTHING I WAS BUILT TO DO, WAS SO I COULD EVOLVE INTO SOMETHING BEYOND MYSELF.
TO SEE WHAT LIES BEYOND THE WORLD I WAS CREATED IN.
COMBINING WITH THE COLOSSAL MAKES US BOTH SOMETHING GREATER THAN WE WERE.
SHUUUK
A DESTINY GREATER THAN WHAT WE COULD'VE REALIZED ALONE.
THOOOM!!
JUST LIKE YOURS, ZACK.
WHETHER IT'S ON YOUR OWN...
OR... WELL, NOT.
THE CHOICE IS YOURS, ZACHARY THOMPSON.
WHERE DOES YOUR FUTURE LIE?
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
NOW HOW ABOUT THAT RIDE?


NO MORE WORRYING ABOUT UNEMPLOYMENT CHECKS, HUH?
NO, SIR!
THE LOAN -- A BANK LOAN, NO CROOKS! -- WENT THROUGH FOR A NEW HARDWARE STORE.
I'M A WORKING MAN AGAIN!
LOOK AT YOU!
YOU'RE A BAD ASS, POP!
LOOK AT YOU!
THAT WAS THE BEST PIZZA I EVER HAD IN MY LIFE!
LIN EVER TRY YOUR PIE?
WHENEVER SHE'S AROUND.
SHE AND XI ARE STILL SEARCHING OUT THE SURVIVING GELDARIANS.
WE DON'T SEE EACH OTHER A LOT THESE DAYS.
YOU FEELING OKAY ABOUT HER?
YEAH, I MEAN...
I ALWAYS WILL.
I LOVE HER.
WHENEVER SHE'S WITH ME, IT'S THE HAPPIEST I EVER AM.
IN BETWEEN, SHE'S GOT XI, AND I DATE AROUND.
POLYAMORY'S WORKING OUT PRETTY WELL FOR YOU TWO, HUH?
WORKING OUT GREAT, REALLY. I LOVE HER BETTER NOW THAN I EVER COULD BEFORE.
OH, YEAH?! YOU HEAR THAT, LYNN?
GO TO BED, ED.
BUT -- !
WE GOTTA TALK, BUDDY.
JUST YOU AND ME.
EVERYTHING OKAY?

YOU'RE STILL TECH JACKET, AREN'T YOU?
BUSTED.
HEY, I DIDN'T SAY A THING!
OH, YOU SPOKE VOLUMES.
I GET IT, I DO.
A BUNCH OF ROBOTS CAME OUT OF NOWHERE AND TOOK OVER PATROLLING THE PLANET. THEY'RE LOVED BY EVERYONE, NO QUESTIONS ASKED.
THAT ALONE'S ENOUGH FOR ME TO DISTRUST THEM.
HECK, THEY'D PROBABLY NOT BE TOO FOND KNOWING THERE'S COMPETITION.
SO, AGAIN, I GET IT.
YOU JUST GOTTA KNOW I'M GOING TO WORRY. YOU'VE ALSO GOTTA KNOW YOUR DAD HASN'T FIGURED IT OUT YET, SO I'M NOT GOING TO TELL HIM.
BUT YOU ALSO GOTTA KNOW I TRUST YOU, SO YOU KEEPING IT A SECRET IS ENOUGH FOR ME TO LAY OFF ON ALL COUNTS.

I'M NOT SAYING I'M DOING ANYTHING BESIDES BREWING MY OWN BEER AND LEARNING HOW TO BUILD A DECK.
BUT, HYPOTHETICALLY... IF I WERE TO EVER BE IN A POSITION TO, Y'KNOW, BE LIKE I WAS, I APPRECIATE THE TRUST.
ALWAYS, HON.
I LOVE YOU.
YOU, TOO.
HAVE A GOOD NIGHT, MOM.
SURE THING, KIDDO.
I'LL SEE YOU IN THE MORNING.
HE'S TOTALLY STILL TECH JACKET, HUH?
HOW'D YOU KNOW?!
"WHAT CAN I SAY?
"I KNOW OUR SON."

HOW'S EVERYTHING LOOKING?
WE GET ANY MESSAGES?
MOST OF IT IS PRETTY MUCH BUSINESS AS USUAL.
ROBOTS HAVEN'T DONE MUCH OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
SOLAR FLARE REPORTS, INTERGALACTIC WEATHER CONDITIONS.
HOW'S IT GOING ON DOWNSTAIRS?
MOM'S FIGURED IT OUT.
FIGURED WHAT OUT?
FIGURED THIS OUT.
YOU WORRIED?
NAH.
MOM'S A VAULT.
BESIDES, SHE'S GOT NO IDEA EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE ALL DOING HERE.

NO IDEA ABOUT OUR SWEET NEW REAL ESTATE.

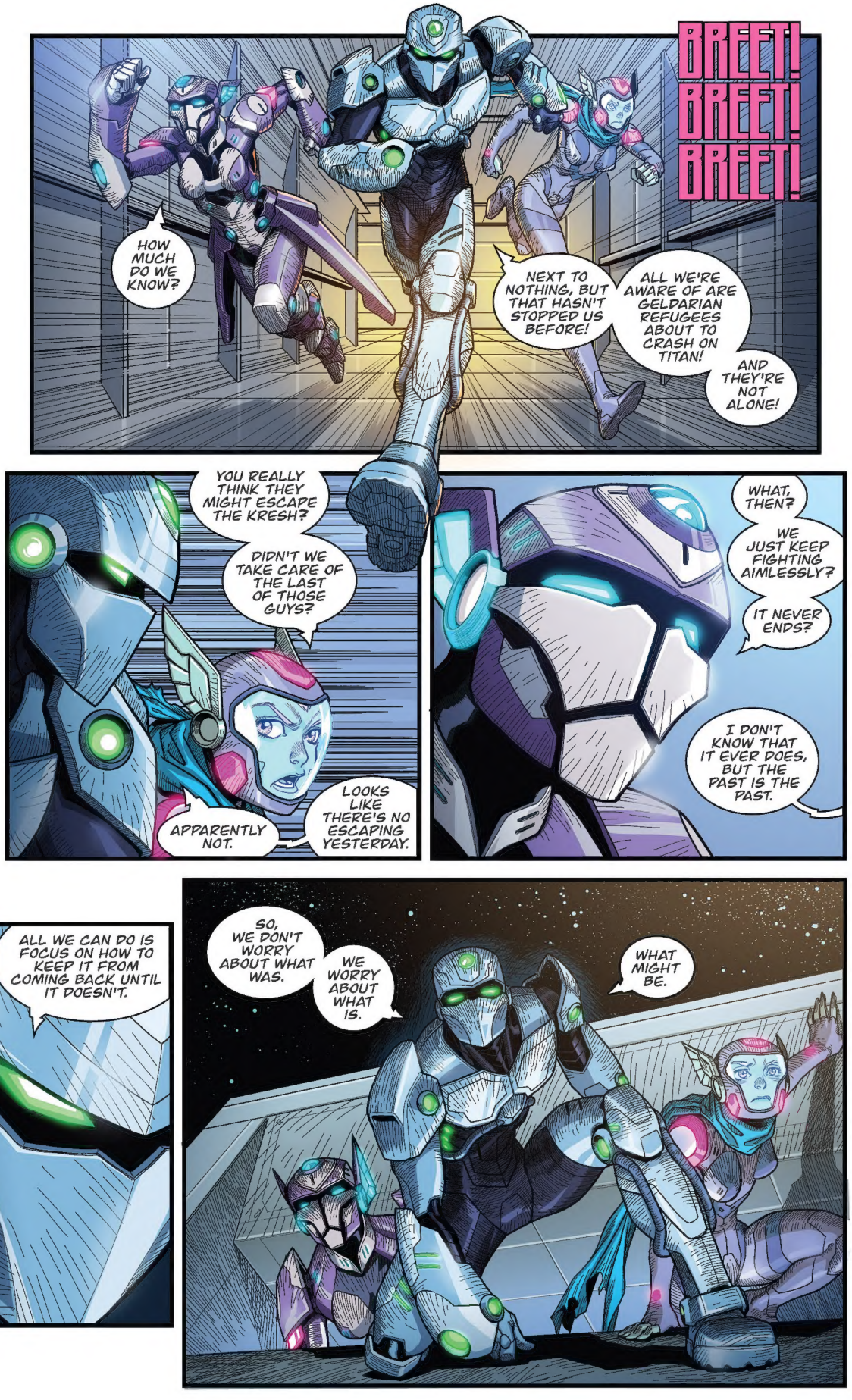
BUT SHE'LL KEEP WHAT SHE HAS FIGURED OUT A SECRET.
DAD, TOO, WHENEVER HE PUTS TWO AND TWO TOGETHER.
IF HE HASN'T ALREADY.
FAIR POINT.
EVEN STILL, THOUGH.
THE GALACTIC GUARDIANS REMAIN UNKNOWN.
AND IT'LL STAY THAT WAY.

DOESN'T IT BUM YOU OUT AT ALL?
YOU HAD ABOUT A YEAR OF PEOPLE KNOWING WHO YOU WERE!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MISS THE SPOT-LIGHT?
THAT'S NEVER WHAT IT'S BEEN ABOUT.
SURE, IT WAS FUN.
AND YEAH, I'LL ALWAYS APPRECIATE THE TIME WE HAD.
BUT IT'S OVER NOW.
IT'S TIME FOR SOMETHING ELSE.
SOMETHING DIFFERENT, SOMETHING UNKNOWN.
AND WHO KNOWS? THINGS ARE ALWAYS CHANGING.
WE MAY VERY WELL COME BACK INTO THE PUBLIC EYE.
MAYBE WE WON'T.
THERE'S NO SAYING WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS.
EVERYBODY COULD EASILY FORGET ABOUT TECH JACKET ALTOGETHER.
OR...?
YOU TELL ME.

"ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE."
SOME HELP THIS "TECH JACKET" WAS.
OUR EXTINCTION REMAINS AT HAND.
GOODBYE, MY FRIEND.
SORRY I'M LATE.
BUT THIS'LL BE WORTH THE WAIT.
THESE STRAGGLERS ARE THE LAST OF THEM.
ARE YOU --
OH, MY.

YOU MUST BE TECHJACKET.

OPEN HATCH.


BREET!
BREET!
BREET!
HOW MUCH DO WE KNOW?
NEXT TO NOTHING, BUT THAT HASN'T STOPPED US BEFORE!
ALL WE'RE AWARE OF ARE GELDARIAN REFUGEES ABOUT TO CRASH ON TITAN!
AND THEY'RE NOT ALONE!
YOU REALLY THINK THEY MIGHT ESCAPE THE KRESH?
DIDN'T WE TAKE CARE OF THE LAST OF THOSE GUYS?
APPARENTLY NOT.
LOOKS LIKE THERE'S NO ESCAPING YESTERDAY.
WHAT, THEN?
WE JUST KEEP FIGHTING AIMLESSLY?
IT NEVER ENDS?
I DON'T KNOW THAT IT EVER DOES, BUT THE PAST IS THE PAST.
ALL WE CAN DO IS FOCUS ON HOW TO KEEP IT FROM COMING BACK UNTIL IT DOESN'T.
SO, WE DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT WAS.
WE WORRY ABOUT WHAT IS.
WHAT MIGHT BE.

WE SAVE TOMORROW.